

MONROE COUNTY



2020 STATE OF THE COUNTY AND INFORMATION GUIDE

2019 A year in review

2020 Looking into the new decade

As we welcome a new decade, Monroe County staff is proud of the work that was done this past year to enhance the quality of the lives of our citizens, business owners, and visitors.

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners are leading the country in climate change and sea-level rise conversations. In December, the County hosted the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Leadership Summit and will continue to plan forward while tackling the topic head-on with courageous communication.

The County continued its efforts to lessen the burden on local taxpayers by securing millions of dollars in federal and state funding for needed programs and projects while we continue to work on reimbursements from FEMA for Hurricane Irma expenses.



At the state level, \$6 million was secured for water quality projects, \$5 million for land acquisition, and \$750,000 for the vessel pump-out program. The County has been working with the State Department of Economic Opportunity to garner \$105 million in funds earmarked for Florida Keys households that are rebuilding by repairing, elevating, or reconstructing damaged homes caused by Irma and for housing mitigation programs, including purchasing two trailer parks and scattered lots to rebuild new resilient homes, primarily in the Big Pine Key area and Conch Key.

Project Management obtained grant funding to fix Irma damaged historic properties in Key West and Pigeon Key. It was with great pride that Project Management and Public Works were able to upgrade the hurricane-damaged lighting at both Big Pine Community Park and Harry Harris Park in Key Largo.

The Office of Sustainability celebrated the completion of its 257-canal marine debris removal project that was federally and state grant-funded in October. The project stayed on time and under budget resulting in the addition of more canals added to the project.

Monroe County Fire Rescue had a busy year and will be graduating its second "Hot Shot" class targeted to residents at its fire training academy in mid-January. The County also took possession of its third Trauma Star helicopter to provide life-saving flights to the mainland. The program continues to fly a record number of patients while continuing to transport all Monroe County residents with no out-of-pocket costs.

Monroe County Emergency Management activated with the threat of Hurricane Dorian. Although we fared well, some of our neighbors in the Bahamas did not. County staff volunteered and donated to Bahamas relief, and the County was able to "pay it forward" to help Brevard County when they were on the brink of exhaustion after the hurricane loomed off their shoreline for five days.

The Key West airport improvement projects continue with the airport expanding nonstop services to 14 major cities. The airport also welcomed a new deputy director and a Marathon Airport manager. Our airports are the first sight for many when they arrive in Monroe County, and the County is proud of the future of the airports.

For our residents in need, the County's Social Services, Veteran's Affairs, and Guardian ad Litem departments continued efforts to help children, seniors, veterans, and homeless residents in need. This is also a good time to thank a group of County staff who volunteer on their days off to curate holiday meals for homebound residents in the Florida Keys.

The County's five libraries continue to be community centers. While many communities across the nation may see a decline in library use, the groundbreaking of the new Marathon library will be an extension of Middle Keys resident's living room. And, this year, the community enjoyed the 60th anniversary of the Key West library at its current location with jazz music under the stars.

The County funds the operations of three animal shelters and helped fund a portion of the new Key West Animal Shelter that opened on Stock Island earlier this year.

From Ocean Reef to Key West, everyday tasks included providing building permits, enforcing County codes, maintaining County facilities, roads, bridges, its vehicle fleet, overseeing trash collection and recycling, keeping

information flowing to the public, and producing and administering a \$472.6 million FY20 budget. Information Technology completed a retrofitting of the three BOCC chambers to broadcast in High Definition, and Employee Services hosted a successful and well attended annual health fair helping keep Monroe County's employees healthy.

The County completed its five-year strategic plan, and the commissioners started an all-encompassing Florida Keys Transportation Coordination Committee to tackle traffic and safety concerns on U.S. 1, which was one of the top concerns of citizens.

In 2019, the Commissioners and County staff made the community – a community we can all be proud of – our top priority by striving to make our island home a beautiful and safe place to live, work, and play. Looking into 2020 and a new decade in front of us, we will continue to balance our resilient community.

Sincerely,



Roman Gastesi



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Monroe County Statistics

76,212

Population
2019 estimate

Approx. 77.5
people per square
mile .4 percent
of Florida's
Population

Area:

3,738

Square Miles
(73 Percent Water)

Islands:

1,783

of 1 acre or larger

Established: 1823

County Seat:
Key West

Districts: 5

\$63,030

Median Household Income

4,572

Number of Employment
Establishments

2.6%

Unemployment
Rate

48.3

Median Age

Average
Commute to
Work: 17.8
minutes

Number of Registered
Boats: 29,037

(Statistics courtesy of edr.state.fl.us
and flhsmv.gov)

Monroe County is the southernmost county in the continental United States and consists of the entire Florida Keys chain, the surrounding waters and a mostly uninhabited region of Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve on the mainland.

The 2020 Monroe County State of the County and Information Guide was produced by Public Information Officer Kristen Livengood with the help of Monroe County's Senior Management Team and printed and designed by The Weekly Newspapers.

Cover photo by Neil Mellies of the Monroe County-owned Reynold's Street Pier in Key West during a December 2019 sunset.

Stay in the Know About Monroe

There are several ways to stay up-to-date with County government and happenings throughout the year.

MONROE COUNTY WEBSITE

WWW.MONROECOUNTY-FL.GOV

Find the Board of County Commissioners, the budget, all County departments, County projects, County parks and museums, legislative advocacy for the Keys, permitting rules, hurricane preparedness and relief, links to department emails and phone numbers, and more.

Sign up at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/notifyme to receive County news releases directly to your email account. You can also sign up for custom calendars and alerts for meeting notifications for specific boards or advisory committees, bid notifications, employment openings, and more.

MONROE COUNTY SOCIAL MEDIA

[f /MonroeCountyBOCC](https://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountyBOCC)
[@MonroeCounty](https://twitter.com/MonroeCounty)
[@monroecountybocc](https://www.instagram.com/monroecountybocc)
[flickr.com/monroecountybocc](https://www.flickr.com/photos/monroecountybocc)

Monroe County Fire Rescue:

[f /monroecountyfirerescue](https://www.facebook.com/monroecountyfirerescue)

Key West Airport:

[f /KWIAEWY](https://www.facebook.com/KWIAEWY)
[@leyw_kwia](https://twitter.com/leyw_kwia)

Guardian Ad Litem:

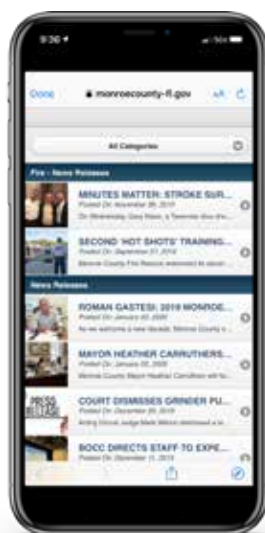
[f /galfakeys](https://www.facebook.com/galfakeys)

Monroe County Libraries:

www.keyslibraries.org

PUBLIC RECORDS

The County Attorney's Office manages the County's responsibilities under Florida's Public Records Act. In FY 2019, County Attorney staff processed 684 requests for public records. Such requests can be submitted by email to PublicRecords@MonroeCounty-FL.Gov or by going to <https://monroecountyfl.nextrequest.com>. The NextRequest portal is a new mechanism for making requests and helps County staff accurately track the processing of such requests.



MONROE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HURRICANE INFORMATION

WWW.MONROECOUNTYEM.COM

Monroe County Information Hotline:
800.955.5504
(activated for emergencies)
Sign up for ALERT!Monroe: www.monroecountyem.com/alertmonroe



MONROE COUNTY TV (MCTV)

WWW.MONROECOUNTY-FL.GOV/MCTV

Comcast: Channel 76

AT&T U-verse: Channel 99

Covers: regular and special meetings of the BOCC, Planning Commission, Code Enforcement hearings and other live, pre-recorded, and original content. Also: local election coverage, approaching weather and emergency information, video bulletin board, and NOAA weather audio.

FLORIDA KEYS MUNICIPALITIES

Islamorada:

www.islamorada.fl.us

Key Colony Beach:

www.keycolonybeach.net

Key West:

www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov

Layton:

www.cityoflayton.com

Marathon:

www.ci.marathon.fl.us

MONROE COUNTY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Sheriff's Office: www.keyssso.net

Supervisor of Elections:

www.keys-elections.org

Clerk of Court:

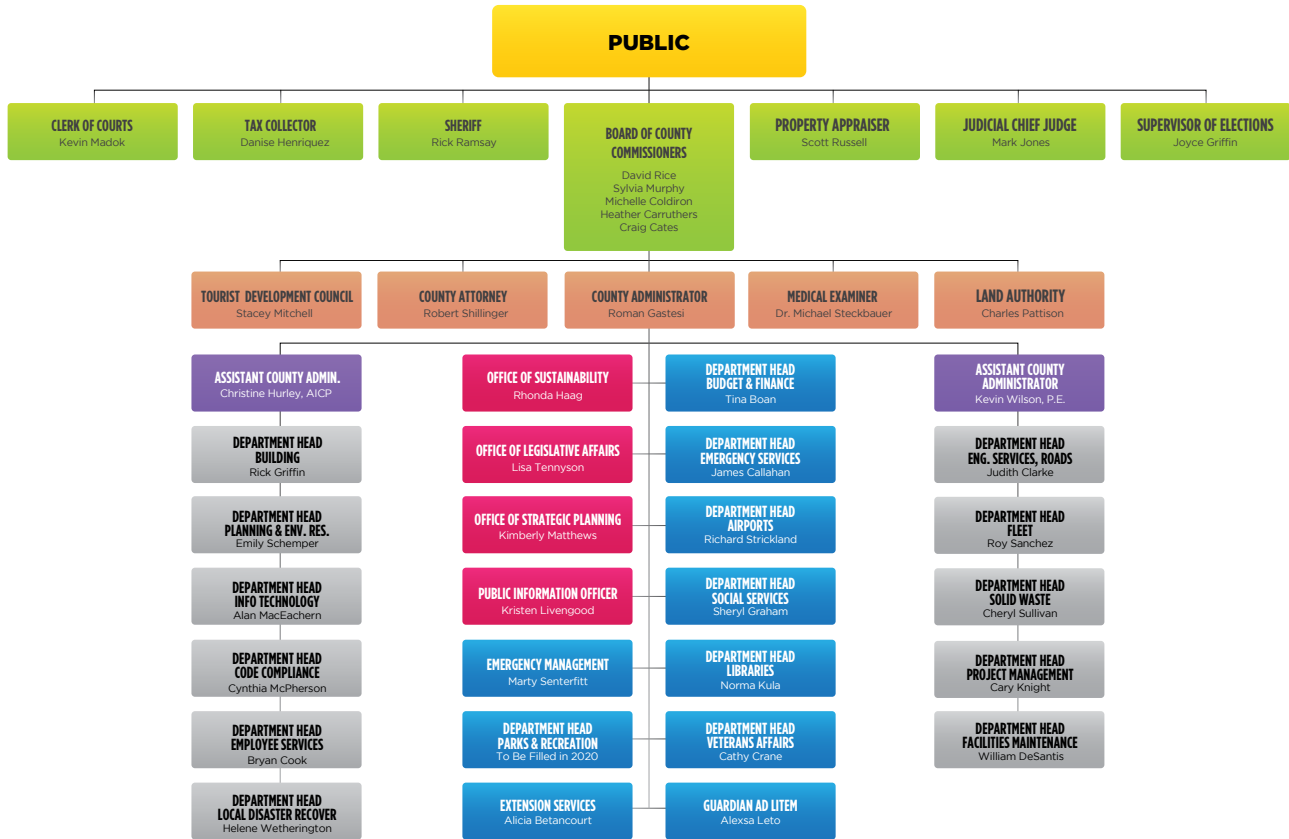
www.clerk-of-the-court.com

Tax Collector:

www.monroetaxcollector.com

Property Appraiser:

www.mcpafl.org



Monroe County Organizational Chart

The County Administrator, Roman Gastesi, has overall responsibility for the daily operations of Monroe County's government, with the exception of the Constitutional offices. The County Administrator, County Attorney, Land Authority, Tourist Development Council and Medical Examiner answer directly to the elected Board of County Commissioners.

The County Administrator and two Assistant County Administrators, Christine Hurley and Kevin Wilson, oversee the County's 24 departments and offices that cover a broad range of services and activities.

County Administration



County Administrator
ROMAN GASTESI
305.292.4441
Gastesi-Roman@monroecounty-fl.gov
Aide: Lindsey Ballard
Ballard-Lindsey@monroecounty-fl.gov

Assistant County Administrator

CHRISTINE HURLEY, AICP



305.289.2517
Hurley-Christine@monroecounty-fl.gov
Aide: Kelly Cummings
Cummings-Kelly@monroecounty-fl.gov

Assistant County Administrator

KEVIN WILSON, P.E.



305.453.8788
Wilson-Kevin@monroecounty-fl.gov
Aide: Suzanne Rubio
Rubio-Suzanne@monroecounty-fl.gov

Monroe County Senior Staff Directory

AIRPORTS

Director: Richard Strickland,
305.809.5210, Strickland-Richard@monroecounty-fl.gov

BUDGET & FINANCE

Director: Tina Boan, 305.292.4470
Boan-Tina@monroecounty-fl.gov

BUILDING

Director: Rick Griffin, 305.453.8815
Griffin-Rick@monroecounty-fl.gov

CODE COMPLIANCE

Director: Cynthia J. McPherson,
305.289.2508, McPherson-Cynthia@monroecounty-fl.gov

COUNTY ATTORNEY & RISK MANAGEMENT

County Attorney: Bob Shillinger,
305.292.3470,
Shillinger-Bob@monroecounty-fl.gov

EMPLOYEE SERVICES

Director: Bryan Cook, 305.292.4558
Cook-Bryan@monroecounty-fl.gov

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Director: Marty Senterfitt,
305.289.6018, Senterfitt-Martin@monroecounty-fl.gov
Storm Ready Hotline: 1.800.955.5504
During emergencies, only call the hotline

FIRE RESCUE

Director: Fire Chief James Callahan
305.289.6004, Callahan-James@monroecounty-fl.gov
Fire Prevention:
Upper Keys: 305.453.8726
Lower Keys: 305.797.0875
Trauma Star: 305.289.6008
Trauma Star Billing: 305.289.6010

ENGINEERING SERVICES & ROADS

Director: Judith Clarke; 305.295.4329
Clarke-Judith@monroecounty-fl.gov

EXTENSION SERVICES

Director: Alicia Betancourt,
305.292.4501, Monroe@ifas.ufl.edu,
Betancourt-Alicia@monroecounty-fl.gov

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Director: William DeSantis,
305.292.4532, Desantis-William@monroecounty-fl.gov

FLEET MANAGEMENT

Director: Roy Sanchez, 305.292.3571
Sanchez-Roy@monroecounty-fl.gov

GUARDIAN AD LITEM

Director: Alexa Corsi Leto,
305.292.3485 Leto-Alexsa@monroecounty-fl.gov

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Director: Alan MacEachern,
305.453.8792, Maceachern-Alan@monroecounty-fl.gov
Monroe County Television:
305.295.5128

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Director: Lisa Tennyson, 305.292.4444
Tennyson-Lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov

LIBRARY SERVICES

Director: Norma Kula, 305.853.7349
Kula-Norma@monroecounty-fl.gov

PARKS AND REC

To Be Determined later in 2020

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Senior Director: Emily Schemper,
305.289.2500, Schemper-Emily@monroecounty-fl.gov

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Director: Cary Knight, 305.292.4527
Knight-Cary@monroecounty-fl.gov



PUBLIC WORKS

Director: Willie DeSantis,
305.292.4431, DeSantis-William@monroecounty-fl.gov

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Public Information Officer: Kristen Livengood, 305.680.8226 Livengood-Kristen@monroecounty-fl.gov

SOCIAL SERVICES

Senior Director: Sheryl Graham, 305.292.4510
Graham-Sheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov
Monroe County Transit:
Reservations: 305.292.4424
Cancellations: 305.295.4373

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

Director: Cheryl Sullivan,
305.292.4536, Sullivan-Cheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Senior Director: Kimberly Matthews,
305.292.4540, Matthews-Kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov

SUSTAINABILITY, RESILIENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE

Chief Resilience Officer: Rhonda Haag,
305.453.8774, Haag-Rhonda@monroecounty-fl.gov

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Director: Cathy Crane, 305.295.5150
Crane-Cathy@monroecounty-fl.gov

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/bocc



MAYOR HEATHER CARRUTHERS

District 3
500 Whitehead
Street, Suite 102
Key West, FL 33040;
305.292.3430
boccds3@monroecounty-fl.gov

Administrative Aide:
Carol Schreck
Schreck-Carol@monroecounty-fl.gov



MAYOR PRO TEM MICHELLE COLDIRON

District 2
25 Ships Way
Big Pine Key,
FL 33043;
305.292.4512
boccds2@monroecounty-fl.gov

Administrative Aide:
Katie Atkins
Atkins-Katherine@monroecounty-fl.gov



COMMISSIONER SYLVIA MURPHY

District 5
102050 Overseas
Highway, Suite 234
Key Largo, FL 33037;
305.453.8787
boccds5@monroecounty-fl.gov

Administrative Aide:
Susie Ptomey
Ptomey-Susie@monroecounty-fl.gov



COMMISSIONER DAVID RICE

District 4
9400 Overseas
Highway, #210
Marathon, FL 33050;
305.289.6000
boccds4@monroecounty-fl.gov

Administrative Aide:
Tamara Lamarche
Lamarche-Tamara@monroecounty-fl.gov



COMMISSIONER CRAIG CATES

District 1
530 Whitehead
Street, Suite 102
Key West, FL 33040;
305.292.3440
boccds1@monroecounty-fl.gov

Administrative Aide:
Amanda Leggett
Leggett-Amanda@monroecounty-fl.gov

CONSTITUTIONAL ESTABLISHMENT

Article VIII, Section 1(e) of the Florida Constitution states that except when otherwise provided by county charter, the governing body of each County shall be a Board of County Commissioners composed of five members serving staggered terms of four years.

After each decennial census, the BOCC shall divide the County into districts of contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable. One commissioner residing in each district shall be elected by the voters.

Mission

To enhance quality of life by providing outstanding public service responsive to the needs of our citizens, our unique community and our environment.

Vision

Creating a Better Life Every Day for Everyone in the Florida Keys



MONROE COUNTY BOCC MEETINGS

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/meetings
The BOCC holds monthly meetings that are open to the public. The dates and agendas are posted on the website. Meetings start at 9 a.m. Due to the geographical challenge of the 100-mile island chain, the meetings are held on a rotating basis at three sites. The BOCC also holds public budget meetings and other special meetings during the year.

**Murray Nelson
Government
& Cultural Center**
102050 Overseas
Highway, Key Largo
305.852.7161
**March, June,
September,
December**

**Marathon
Government Center**
2798 Overseas
Highway, Marathon
305.289.6036
**January, April, July,
October**

**Harvey
Government Center**
1200 Truman
Avenue, Key West
305.295.4385
**February, May,
August, November**



Budget & Finance

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/budgetandfinance

The mission of the Budget and Finance Department is to provide effective development and implementation of Monroe County's budget; promote efficient, sound financial management; ensure governmental procurement regulations are followed countywide; facilitate financially responsible grant funding; and maintain the highest standards of ethics, integrity, and prudent expenditure of public funds.

The Budget and Finance Department is made up of three offices:

- Office of Management and Budget
- Purchasing
- Grants Administration

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

The Office of Management and Budget develops, implements and monitors annual operating and capital budgets, and provides financial analysis and revenue and expenditure forecasting. It performs multi-year budget forecasts, analyzes the effect of the State budget on the County budget, and prepares financial information for the Board of County Commission and the public.

- Collaborate and consult with Monroe County departments to develop the annual operating and capital budgets
- Publish, administer and monitor all Monroe County budgets
- Provide financial analysis, multi-year forecasting, and financial reporting

Major Accomplishment:

For the 21st consecutive year, Budget and Finance has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association.



Director: Tina Boan

305.292.4467

Boan-Tina@monroecounty-fl.gov

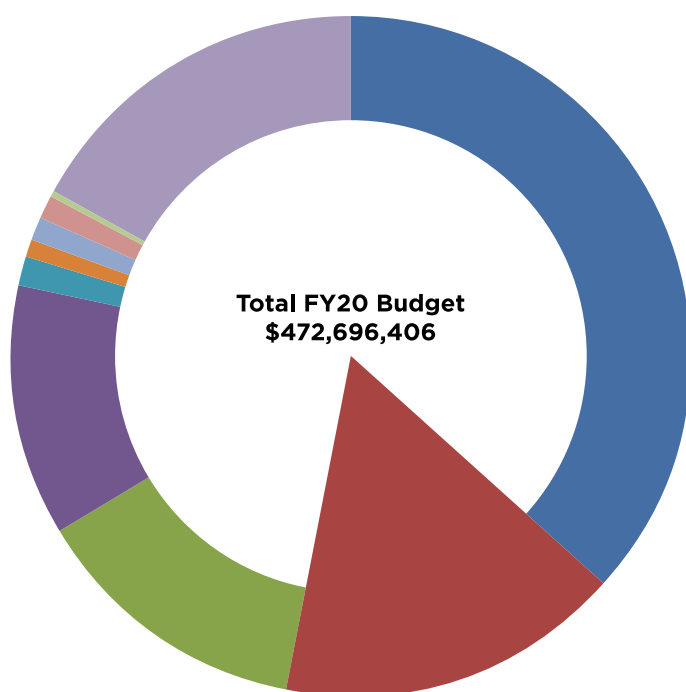
Employees: 9

Budget: \$4.5 Million (includes \$3.5 million for non-profit funding that the department manages). In addition, the department manages the \$42 million Federal pass-through to the State Grant for Hurricane Irma Relief and Recovery.

HURRICANE IRMA RECOVERY

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/irmafinancials

The Budget and Finance Department is also responsible for financial management and administrative services in a disaster. The Department continues to play an integral part in the emergency response and recovery activities of Hurricane Irma from 2017. During Fiscal Year 2019, the department focused on ensuring that hurricane-related work was planned in a coordinated effort with other County departments and that the associated expenses were properly documented.



TOTAL BUDGET		
BOCC Operating	36.7%	173,513,212
Capital Projects, Inc Debt Svc	16.6%	78,361,615
Sheriff	13.2%	62,188,609
Tourist Development Council	11.9%	56,164,778
Tax Collector	1.4%	6,689,390
Judicial, State Attorney, Public Defender	0.9%	4,122,270
Property Appraiser	1.0%	4,835,971
Clerk of the Courts	1.1%	5,256,225
Supervisor of Elections	0.4%	2,065,897
Budgeted Transfers, Cash Bal & Resv	16.8%	79,498,439

FY20 Adopted Budget

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners adopted the 2020 budget and millage rate that reflect the commissioners' direction to meet increased service demands and workload, continued Hurricane Irma recovery, and infrastructure improvements including climate-resilient infrastructure. This is planned, designed, and built in a way that anticipates and adapts to changing climate conditions.

The Countywide certified millage rate adopted by the BOCC for Fiscal Year 2020 is 1.66 percent above the rolled-back millage rate from 2.5459 to 2.5881. Per the BOCC's authorization, a new taxing district was created to help fund a new hospital in the Middle Keys encompassing MM 40 to MM 65. With the new \$1.9 million taxing district, the aggregate millage rate is 3.14 percent above the rolled-back millage rate. Ad valorem taxes collected overall will be \$95.3 million, which includes direct funding of \$1.2 million to fund the Florida Department of Health in Monroe County.

The \$472,696,406 budget covers the Board of County Commissioners' operating budget, capital projects, and constitutional officer's budgets.

Within the budget, a net of an additional 11.5 new Board of County Commissioners' positions were approved. Positions include assistants for the Guardian Ad Litem and Social Services, a park director and maintenance worker, a fleet mechanic, fire marshal, and two fire inspectors, four firefighter positions for Monroe County Fire Rescue's Sugarloaf department, two fleet mechanic/generator technicians, and a safety office administrator.

The budget goes into effect Oct. 1, 2019 through Sept. 30, 2020.

SOUTH FLORIDA AD VALOREM TAX COMPARISON FY20 COUNTY-WIDE SERVICES-PROPERTY WITH \$500,000 TAXABLE VALUE

LEE

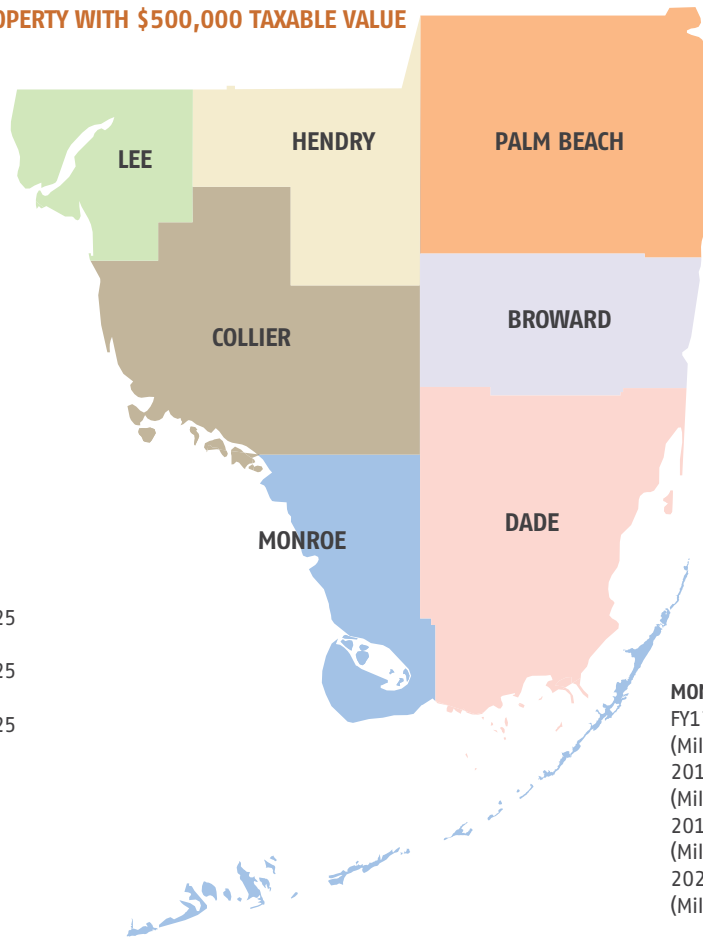
FY17 Tax Levy \$2,025.30
(Millage Rate 4.0506)
FY18 Tax Levy \$2,025.30
(Millage Rate 4.0506)
FY19 Tax Levy \$2,025.30
(Millage Rate 4.0506)

HENDRY

FY17 Tax Levy \$4,245.45
(Millage Rate 8.4909)
FY18 Tax Levy \$4,245.45
(Millage Rate 8.4909)
FY19 Tax Levy \$4,105.35
(Millage Rate 8.2107)

COLLIER

FY17 Tax Levy \$1,782.25
(Millage Rate 3.5645)
FY18 Tax Levy \$1,782.25
(Millage Rate 3.5645)
FY19 Tax Levy \$1,782.25
(Millage Rate 3.5645)



PALM BEACH

FY17 Tax Levy \$2,390.75
(Millage Rate 4.7815)
FY18 Tax Levy \$2,390.75
(Millage Rate 4.7815)
FY19 Tax Levy \$2,390.75
(Millage Rate 4.7815)

BROWARD

FY17 Tax Levy \$2,723.70
(Millage Rate 5.4474)
FY18 Tax Levy \$2,731.15
(Millage Rate 5.4623)
FY19 Tax Levy \$2,739.60
(Millage Rate 5.4792)

DADE

FY17 Tax Levy \$2,333.45
(Millage Rate 4.6669)
FY18 Tax Levy \$2,333.45
(Millage Rate 4.6669)
FY19 Tax Levy \$2,333.45
(Millage Rate 4.6669)

MONROE

FY17 Adopted Tax Levy \$1,414.85
(Millage Rate 2.8297)
2018 Adopted Tax Levy \$1,347.85
(Millage Rate 2.6957)
2019 Adopted Tax Levy \$1,347.85
(Millage Rate 2.6957)
2020 Adopted Tax Levy \$1,294.05
(Millage Rate 2.5881)

Purchasing Office

The Purchasing Office provides quality purchasing and contracting support to all County departments in a timely manner and while following a strict code of ethics.

- Provide high quality, best value purchasing and procurement activities to maximize the purchasing power of public funds and promote fair and open competition
- Ensure governmental procurement regulations are followed countywide
- Provide procurement support in a timely and professional manner to all County departments

Grants Administration

The Grants Administration Office oversees the funding for competitive, discretionary and mandatory grant programs funded by the BOCC. The BOCC awards approximately \$3.5 million each year in grants designed to promote the well being of vulnerable families, children, and individuals who live in Monroe County. Though this grant program does not provide personal financial assistance, it does provide funding opportunities to a variety of local non-profit organizations.

The Grants Administration Office applies for and administers some pass-through grants and oversees contracts related to discretionary and mandatory non-profit grant awards that are distributed by the County.

Grants Administration Cont.

FY2019 Major Accomplishments:

- The cumulative total of clients served by each non-profit organization totaled approximately 40,500.
- The amount awarded Monroe County for the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) grant, a competitive grant awarded by FDLE/DOJ, doubled in FY2019; the award amount is \$133,334.

Availability of Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB) Grant Funding for Human Service Organizations:

The BOCC awards grants to non-profit organizations meeting human needs through an interdisciplinary knowledge base, focusing on prevention and remediation of problems and maintaining a commitment to improving the overall quality of life of service populations who live in Monroe County. The board is charged with the responsibility of reviewing the grant applications and recommendations for grant awards.

For Fiscal Year 2020, during the budget process, the Board of County Commissioners approved \$2,040,000 in ad valorem property tax revenues be awarded to 26 nonprofit human service organizations that provide needed services to vulnerable residents of Monroe County.

HSAB GRANT CYCLE



More information about HSAB grant funding including schedules with deadlines, meeting dates, applications submitted in previous years, a listing of awardees, and a link to a video recording of most recent HSAB meetings may be found at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/hsab.

Other responsibilities include facilitating meetings for the HSAB and Substance Abuse Policy Advisory Board (SAPAB).

In addition to facilitating the annual SAPAB meetings (www.monroecounty-fl.gov/sapab), the department is also responsible for application implementation and monitoring of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant programs, and the Clerk's Drug Abuse Trust Fund.



Key West International & Florida Keys Marathon International Airports

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/airports

Monroe County owns and operates two airports: Key West International and Florida Keys Marathon International.

Both airports are self-supporting Enterprise Funds, which operate using money generated by rates and charges levied on airport tenants and users. The Airports Department operates the facilities and provides comprehensive aviation services.

Both of Monroe County's airports are Federal Aviation Administration FAR Part 139 certified. Together they are a vital part of the County's infrastructure and provide a strong economic foundation for the Florida Keys.

Key West International Airport

Key West International Airport provides air carrier service for the Keys, serving nearly one million passengers in 2019 on flights from Delta, American, United, and Silver. Key West provides direct air service to numerous cities, including Atlanta, Newark, Chicago, Charlotte, Dallas, Washington, D.C., Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, Tampa, and Miami. Recently added were Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

Key West International Airport also handled approximately 31,000 general aviation aircraft operations in 2019, and pumped more than 3 million gallons of aircraft fuel in 2019.

Key West International is a very unique airport due to its history, compact size, and geographic location. Originally called Meacham Field, the airport had its first scheduled flight in 1928. During the WWII era, the airport was used by the United States Army. In 1953, the city of Key West granted Monroe County clear title to Meacham Field. Shortly thereafter, Meacham Field became Key West International Airport. Today, EYW has the ability to safely and efficiently handle a large number of aircraft operations, connecting Key West to the global air transportation system.



Director: Richard Strickland

305.809.5210

Strickland-Richard@monroecounty-fl.gov

www.eyw.com

Airport Employees: 20 (Both Airports)

Airport Fire Rescue staff: 13

Sheriff's Office Airport staff: 30

Budget: \$16.8 Million

- **Total Land Area:** 334 Acres
- **Elevation:** 3 feet above sea level
- **Runway** 9-27, length – 4,801 feet

Between 50 and 60 Commercial airline flights per day As part of the Key West airport's master plan, the airport has plans to upgrade the passenger experience by making improvements to the conveyor system in the baggage area and by renovating the departure area. The new terminal expansion will contain additional seating, a family restroom, a pet relief station, a new women's restroom, and a renovated men's restroom. New drinking fountains that can fill water bottles will also be installed.

There are plans to rehabilitate Taxiway A with construction planned to begin in early 2020. The access road will also be reconfigured for a fuel truck delivery area and parking areas. The projects are funded by a Federal Aviation Administration, Passenger Facility Charge Program, the Florida Department of Transportation grants, and enterprise funding.



Monroe County Fire Rescue at Key West International Airport Station 7 is the fire station that protects Key West International Airport by providing fire suppression, Emergency Medical Services, and Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF). Fire Station 7 is staffed 24/7 365 days a year by a total of 13 ARFF firefighters, with 3 to 4 firefighters on duty per shift. A variety of crash rescue equipment is stationed and maintained at Key West International Airport with a primary mission of protecting the traveling public and aviation-related property preservation.



Florida Keys Marathon International Airport

Florida Keys Marathon International Airport is a general aviation facility that provides aeronautical, emergency, business, and ground transportation services to the Middle Keys community.

Fixed Base Operators

Marathon General Aviation: 305.743.4222;

www.marathonga.com

Marathon Jet Center: 305.743.1995;

www.marathonjetcenter.com

The Florida Keys Marathon Airport reported approximately 45,000 general aviation aircraft operations in 2019.

- **Total Land Area:** 197 Acres
- **Elevation:** 5 feet above sea level
- **Runway** 7-25, length – 5,008 feet
- **Based Aircraft:** 45



Marathon Airport Manager:

Michael Legere

305.289.6302

Legere-Michael

@monroecounty-fl.gov

Building and Permitting

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/building

The Building Department, in coordination with the Planning and Environmental Resources Department, protects public health, safety, and the environment by providing effective permitting for construction and development in accordance with Monroe County Code and the Florida Building Code, consistent with Florida Statutes. The Building Department coordinates permitting with other departments to ensure consistency with the Monroe County Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.

Monroe County Codes can be found at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/codes.

- Provides plan review, permitting, and inspection services for compliance with the Florida Building Code, the Monroe County Code, and all other life safety codes.
- Coordinates unsafe structure abatement with the Code Compliance Department and the Office of the County Attorney.
- Provides contractor registration and licensing and testing programs.
- Provides staff support for the Contractors Examining Board and the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals.
- Provides coordinated administration and enforcement of County's Floodplain regulations, pursuant to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations, including management of the County's Community Rating System (CRS) that saves flood insurance policyholders 25 percent off their premiums annually, which is more than \$5 million/year and Flood Compliance Programs.
- During 2020, will work with FEMA to review new flood plain regulatory mapping, based on a coastal study performed by FEMA consultants, resulting in new flood zones, with potential impacts on insurance ratings and regulatory standards for construction, including new base and design flood elevation requirements.



PERMITTING

Permits are required in unincorporated Monroe County for the following:

- site preparation, including land clearing, placement of fill, and excavation
- demolition
- tie-downs of habitable structures
- signs
- fences
- sheds
- any new construction and remodeling work of principal and accessory structures
- all work in the electrical, mechanical, and plumbing trades
- all work subject to the County floodplain management requirements
- resource extraction
- any work involving life safety

There are certain residential exceptions for several of these categories. Contact the County Building Department with specific questions.

PERMIT OFFICES

Key Largo:

Murray Nelson
Government & Cultural
Center
10205 Overseas
Highway
Key Largo, FL 33037
305.453.8800

Marathon:

Government Center
2798 Overseas Highway,
Suite 330
Marathon, FL 33050
305.289.2501

Stock Island:

5503 College Road,
Suite 204
Key West, FL 33040
305.295.3990

Ocean Reef:

11601 CR 905
Key Largo, FL 33037
305.453.8765

Monroe County Coastal Study: Post Preliminary Processing

Preliminary Phase

Preliminary Maps Issued (December 27, 2019)

Meetings

CCO Meetings/Public Open Houses (Jan. 27–30, 2020)

Prepare Federal Register Notice for Publishing

Approximately 3–4 months

Submit Federal Register Notice for Publishing

May 2020 (estimated)

90-Day Appeal & Comment Period

Begins after notice is published (Summer 2020 estimated)

Resolve Appeals & Finalize Map Products

TBD based on appeal(s)

6 Month Compliance Period

Letter of Final Determination

Maps (and new building & insurance requirements) become effective

FEMA FLOOD MAP CHANGES

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/floodmaps

The County received preliminary Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain maps in December 2019 that demonstrate newly modeled recommended regulatory elevations and risk areas for wave action.

Current County zones include AE, VE, and X zones. New zones, including the Coastal AE zone, were added to the maps, and they now include a boundary that shows a LiMWA zone, where waves can also be expected to impact the strength of structures. Per the Florida Building Code, structures in a Coastal A zone are also required to be constructed strong enough to withstand wave action.

The elevations and coastal boundaries are used to determine where finished floors or structural elements must be constructed to be strong enough to withstand wave action during a flood. These maps are currently being reviewed by County staff and the County's technical consultant before FEMA establishes new map boundaries.

During 2020, the new proposed maps will be viewed by the general public with opportunities for public input and appeals if the community does not agree with the technical modeling work that was done by FEMA to determine the required elevations or coastal construction zones.

After FEMA receives comments from local governments and citizens on the preliminary maps, they will issue final maps, expected in late 2020 depending on appeals. The final flood maps are expected to be adopted in 2021.

When the new maps are adopted, all new FEMA mapping elevations will be done in a different datum (NAVD88). Staff will be available to assist the public in understanding how these proposed changes will impact each property owner.

The County is required to adopt the maps to be eligible for the National Flood Insurance Policy. The email address to contact staff is floodmaps@monroecounty-fl.gov.

If you are eligible for flood insurance, the Board of County Commissioners stresses purchasing a flood policy now even if you are self-insured or in an X Zone because under today's existing rules existing flood policies can be grandfathered in and can be assumed by future buyers.

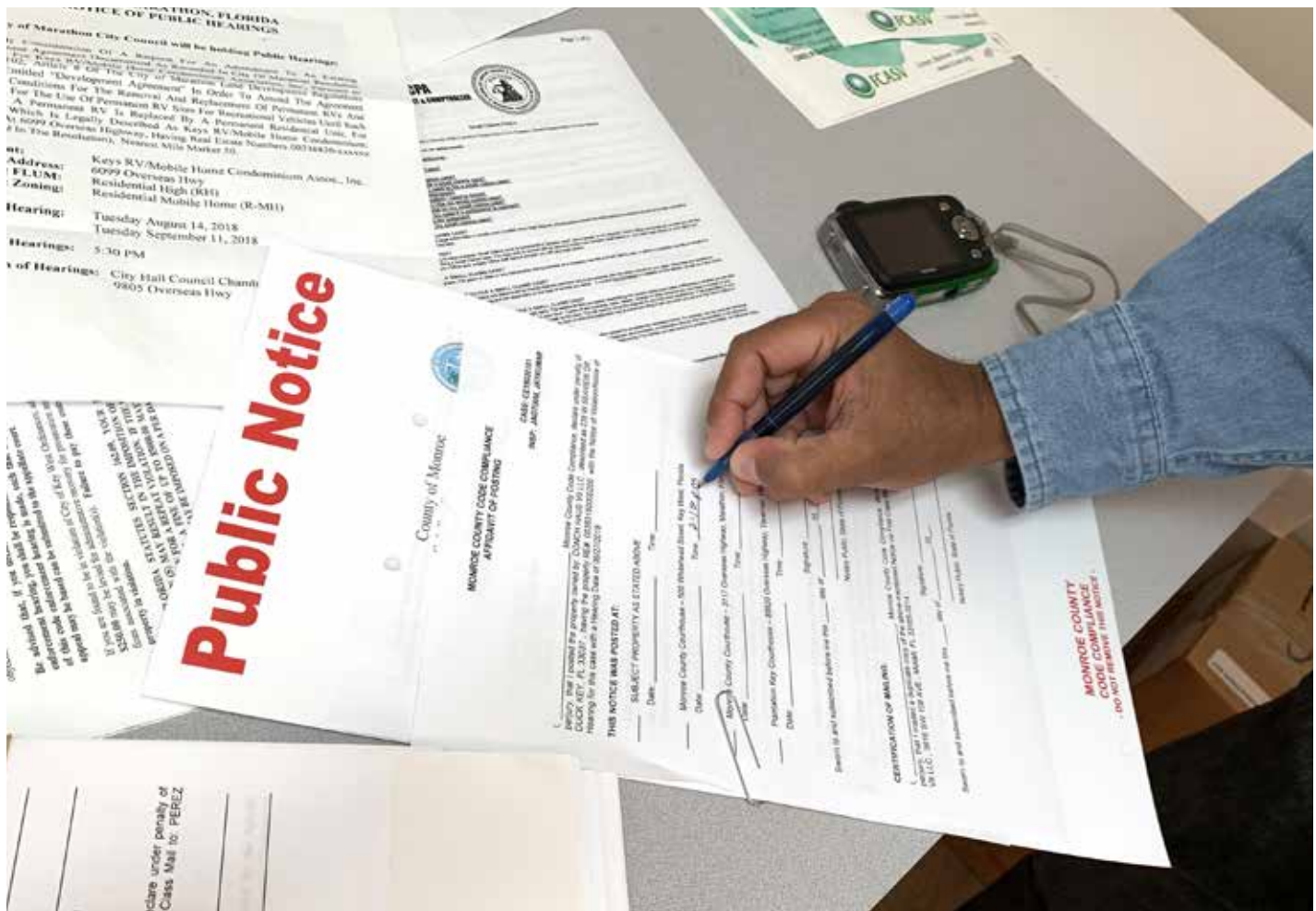


**Building and Permitting
Building Official: Rick Griffin**
305.289.2521
Griffin-Rick@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 49
Budget: \$6 million

Community Rating System (CRS)

In 2020, Monroe County continues to work on achieving a Class 4 CRS rating, which would result in a 30 percent discount to approximately 15,000 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policyholders in unincorporated Monroe County. To do so, the County is completing programs already underway, including Repetitive Loss Area Analysis, Stormwater Master Plan, and a Drainage Maintenance Standard of Practice. The CRS is on a scale of 1 to 8, with 1 being the best. Florida Keys municipalities are also participating in the CRS program. **For more information, visit monroecounty-fl.gov/crs.**

The County entered the CRS program in 2017. Each year, this saves policyholders more than \$5 million and as of 2019, has saved \$19 million overall.



Code Compliance

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/codecompliance

The Code Compliance Department provides an equitable and effective method of enforcement of building, zoning, land development, environmental and other County codes to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Monroe County. The department establishes working partnerships with neighborhoods and outside agencies to assist with compliance.

YOU CAN MAKE CODE COMPLIANCE COMPLAINTS IN A VARIETY OF METHODS:

Online at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/codecomplaintform

In-person or by phone:

Murray Nelson Government Center:

305.483.5506

Marathon Government Center:

305.289.2810



Director: Cynthia J. McPherson

305.289.2508

McPherson-Cynthia@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 19

Budget: \$1.7 million

The Code Compliance Department performs field inspections and investigates complaints relating to ordinance violations.

- Prioritizes safety violations related to unsafe structures, work without permits, land clearing, sewer connections, and vacation rental violations based on elected official goals for compliance
- Coordinates removal of abandoned vehicles/vessels, trash and debris, and maintenance of overgrown lots
- Issues Courtesy Notices for less extreme violations and/or Notices of Violation, with emphasis placed on voluntary compliance, but if a property owner doesn't respond, Code Compliance will proceed with enforcement measures to achieve compliance
- Provides assistance and information to Special Magistrate and the public regarding Monroe County Code of Ordinances
- Coordinates litigation efforts with the County Attorney's Office
- Provides collections of fines/liens related to violations
- Coordinates with the real estate industry during the sale of property with violations or fines

By the Numbers

1,542

Opened new cases in 2019

Five General Code Inspectors:

- Address complaints/violations
- Work without permits
- Abandoned vehicles and watercraft
- High grass and weeds
- Trash and debris

Specialty inspectors:

- Vacation Rental
- Wastewater Connection
- Land clearing
- Unsafe Structures

Other positions include:

- Collections facilitator
- Research analyst
- Liaison to the special magistrate
- Administrative personnel

18,564

Conducted inspections

Presented
919 cases before
the Special
Magistrate
Including 325
Vacation Rental

The remaining cases include work without permits, unsafe structures, land clearing, trash and debris, abandoned vehicles/watercraft, wastewater connections, collections/new liens and mitigation.

\$2.2 M

totalled collections of fines, costs, and after-the-fact fees.

MCESearch

The County introduced a new tool, MCEsearch, earlier in 2019 in conjunction with the Information Technology (IT) Department. The interface allows the public to review status and information on permits, inspections, search local licensed contractors, see code compliance cases, and review property information for unincorporated Monroe County. The website is a single point access search tool.

Permit and code compliance searches can be done by the owner's name, address of property, permit or case numbers, real estate numbers, or inspector. Contractors can be found in a general "all" search, or by company name, category, license numbers, or contractor ID.

To use MCEsearch, visit www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mcesearch.



Planning and Environmental Resources

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/planning

The goal of the Planning and Environmental Resources Department is to foster sustainable, quality development in the County, while conserving and promoting stewardship of the County's fragile environment, and the unique character of the diverse island communities. The Planning and Environmental Resources Department is responsible for the administration of the adopted Monroe County Year 2030 Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code through the review of all development proposals for compliance with these plans. The department's functions are handled by the following offices:

THE PLANNING OFFICE reviews all development proposals for compliance with the comprehensive plan, including community character, growth management provisions and environmental compliance; and processes

amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code based on changing conditions and applicant requests. The Department's services also include transportation planning, administration of the County's affordable housing programs, and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) administration for both the Department and other County entities as needed. For more information, email Cioffari-Cheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

(GIS) OFFICE: Develops, maintains and disseminates geographic data and GIS resources to enhance county functions and provides resources making geographic data available to the public. The GIS Office is also an integral component of the new FEMA flood mapping plans. For more information, email Davisson-Bryan@monroecounty-fl.gov.



Senior Director: Emily Schemper

305.289.2500

Schemper-Emily@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 35

Budget: \$5.8 million

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The Environmental Resources Office conducts the review of applications for compliance with environmental regulations, such as habitat identification, landscaping, stormwater, land clearing, and FEMA required review of potential endangered species impacts under the Permit Referral Process. Environmental Resources staff works to protect the sensitive environment and endangered species of the county, in coordination with state and federal environmental agencies. In addition, this office works in coordination with the Monroe County Land Authority, the Land Steward, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on land acquisition initiatives for conservation and retirement of development rights. For more information, email Roberts-Michael@monroecounty-fl.gov.

MARINE RESOURCES

The Marine Resources Office works to protect the nearshore marine environment, ensure public water access, and provide waterway infrastructure for the recreational boating public. The Office manages Boating Improvement Funds and secures marine-related grants, which are used to remove derelict vessels, maintain channel markers, and provide for pump-out service throughout the Keys. The Office also develops boating regulations in coordination with FWC for boater safety as well as anchoring and mooring management. For more information, email Hitchins-Celia@monroecounty-fl.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

The Land Steward manages the County's habitat restoration and improvement projects to enhance and preserve county-managed lands and partners with state and federal agencies on management issues. The Land Steward's focus includes invasive exotic species removal, habitat restoration, debris removal, and wildfire hazard reduction. The Land Steward also contributes to land acquisition efforts for both conservation purposes and retirement of development rights. For more information, email Rosch-Mark@monroecounty-fl.gov



RATE OF GROWTH ORDINANCE (ROGO)

In 2012, based on hurricane evacuation clearance time modeling and Monroe County's status as an Area of Critical State Concern, the State of Florida mandated that no more than 1,970 new housing unit permits (ROGO permits) be issued within unincorporated Monroe County through the year 2023. Based on the evacuation modeling, this total number of housing units brings the Florida Keys up to its required maximum 24-hour evacuation clearance time. The incorporated municipalities within the Florida Keys also have limited ROGO permits to issue.

In 2019, the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to process amendments to extend the timeframe for issuance of the remaining permits an additional three years, through 2026, in order to leave time to consider the next hurricane evacuation model, which is planned to occur following the 2020 US Census. Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan are currently in progress and will cut the rate of ROGO permit issuance in half for the remainder of the allocation period (July 2020 – July 2023). Results of the next hurricane evacuation clearance time modeling are expected in 2022.



Monroe County Fire Rescue

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/firerescue

Monroe County Fire Rescue (MCFR) operates nine fire stations located throughout the Keys from Tavernier to Key West International Airport and two Trauma Star air ambulance bases, one in Marathon and the other at the Lower Keys Medical Center. The certified firefighters are cross-trained as paramedics, flight medics, emergency medical technicians (EMT's), and Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting personnel (ARFF).

The Department plans for, responds to, and mitigates the effects of emergency situations, including natural and man-made events. These responsibilities include:

- Fire suppression
- Aircraft Emergency Response (ARFF)
- Advanced emergency medical response and transportation (air and ground)
- Fire prevention and safety education
- Hurricane preparedness and emergency management
- Countywide firefighting and EMS training

In 2019, MCFR firefighters responded to emergency incidents throughout Monroe County. These calls for service included: structure fires, wildland fires, brush fires, trash fires, vehicle fires, marine/boat fires, gas leaks, water-related rescues, vehicle extrication calls, hazardous material spills, aircraft incidents, and medical emergency calls.



In 2019, MCFR responded by ground ambulance and Trauma Star helicopters to 3,414 medical emergency calls. Of the 950 patients being airlifted to out-of-county hospitals, about 33 percent of these incidents were scene responses related to heart attacks, strokes, traffic accidents, and other trauma-related incidents. The remaining helicopter transports were hospital-to-hospital transfers for medical emergencies, including heart attacks, strokes, seizures, difficulty breathing and abdominal disorders.



Division Director: Fire Chief
James Callahan
 305.289.6088
Callahan-James@monroecounty-fl.gov



Deputy Chief of Operations
Steve Hudson

305.289.6342
Hudson-Steven@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 151
 Budget: \$25.1 million



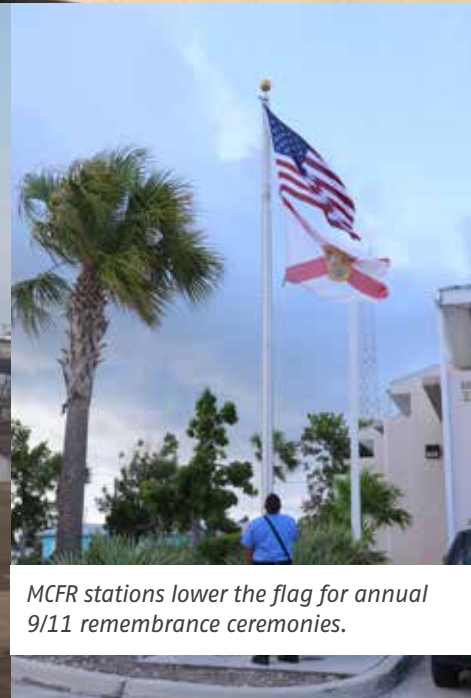
MCFR helps load donations collected for victims of Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas.



MCFR volunteers at several elementary schools reading with students weekly.



A shrimp boat fire on Stock Island in 2019.



MCFR stations lower the flag for annual 9/11 remembrance ceremonies.



MCFR installs "Stop the Bleed" kits near community centers throughout the Keys.



A brush fire in Big Pine Key in 2019 was quickly extinguished.

Fire Prevention

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/firemarshal

Fire Prevention provides services that help eliminate fires and work to prevent accidents from happening, including inspections of businesses and multi-unit residences for compliance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code. The department provides complete and accurate fire protection engineering and plans review, definitive fire cause investigation, life-safety code enforcement, occupancy inspections, and outreach and education, especially to children. Inspection checklists for commercial properties and vacation rentals can be found at the website.

FIRE MARSHALS



Upper Keys: Cassidy Cane
Cane-Cassy@
monroecounty-fl.gov
305.289.8726



Lower Keys: Craig Marston
Marston-Craig@
monroecounty-fl.gov
305.289.6020



Sparky the fire dog, Monroe County's Fire Prevention mascot, helps us teach kids about fire safety and other ways to stay safe.

JOE LONDON FIRE ACADEMY

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/fireacademy

Monroe County owns and operates the Joe London Fire Training Academy, located on Grassy Key. Rebuilt in 2017, it is one of only 43 certified firefighting training centers in Florida. The academy has a modern classroom facility for educating and training our firefighters, as well as a training tower and burn building for practical learning to certify trainees to be state-certified firefighters. The academy offers medical and fire training for our firefighter EMTs and paramedics year-round.



HOT SHOTS PROGRAM

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/hotshots

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners approved a second Monroe County Fire Rescue "Hot Shots" program finishing in January 2020. The program is a free firefighting and first responder training for qualified Monroe County residents in exchange for a commitment to volunteer for three years or work as a professional firefighter anywhere in the Florida Keys.

The program waives the \$2,200 curriculum fee for qualified local residents who are 18 and older with a minimum of a high school diploma or GED to take the Firefighter I and II courses at Monroe County's Joe London Fire Training Academy facility on Grassy Key, MM 56.6. Students who successfully complete all 17 performance objectives of the firefighter program will be prepared to take the State of Florida Firefighter I and II examinations.

Trauma Star

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/traumastar
305.289.6010

Trauma Star is the only air ambulance service in Monroe County. It is jointly operated by Monroe County Fire Rescue and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. Trauma Star has bases in Marathon and Key West, both staffed around the clock to be ready for launch at a moment's notice. Trauma Star's primary mission is to provide emergency helicopter transportation for individuals who are critically injured either by natural causes such as heart attacks or strokes or by other causes such as a vehicle crash or criminal action.

No Out-of-Pocket Costs for Monroe County Residents

There are no out-of-pocket costs for County residents who use the life-saving service. In the past, private air ambulances in the Keys have charged County residents tens of thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs for transport to mainland hospitals.

If you qualify for the resident fee waiver, Monroe County will continue to seek reimbursement from any private insurance companies, but any remaining unpaid fees will be waived. The waiver can be found at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/traumastar.

Trauma Star Flight Paramedic Lynda Rusinowski at the 2019 National Night Out.



Bryant and his family were emotional when they met the MCFR and Trauma Star personnel who provided life-saving care by land and air.

"TRAUMA STAR SAVED MY LIFE"

Since Trauma Star started flying, trauma victims have received treatment for life-threatening injuries. Thanks to the talent and skill of the dedicated professionals who serve on land and in flight, many trauma victims have returned to their daily lives. To view their stories and others, visit the trauma star website.

- Ricky Bryan, 47, from Perryville, MD, who was in full cardiac arrest with no pulse when MCFR responded. MCFR's medically trained firefighters performed life-saving efforts, and he was flown by the County's Trauma Star air ambulance to the University of Miami Hospital.
- Osmany Zamora, of Miami Gardens, was life-flighted out with a critical injury after being hit by an outboard motor propeller on the water. He was transported to Trauma Star and airlifted to Jackson South. En route, Zamora was given the first inflight blood transfusion, which stabilized him.

Trauma Star Now Carries Blood for Onboard Transfusions

Monroe County Fire Rescue advanced its pre-hospital trauma patient care by adding inflight blood transfusions for critically injured patients in May 2019.

In rural areas, the role of blood transfusion is even more critical because of the distance to trauma centers. The flight time from Lower Keys Medical Center to the three closest trauma centers, Kendall Regional Trauma Center, Jackson Memorial Hospital South, and Jackson Ryder Trauma Center, is 50-to 55-minutes.

Emergency Management

www.monroecountyem.com

Emergency Management prepares Monroe County to mitigate against, respond to, and recover from any event that might threaten the safety of the County's residents and visitors or impact property and infrastructure. The Department is committed to serving the community with the highest level of life safety and property protection to meet the needs of the residents and visitors in the Florida Keys.

Emergency Management provides planning, preparedness, and coordination of response activities to events that might impact the infrastructure of Monroe County or the safety of its residents and visitors, such as:

- Weather events – hurricanes, tornadoes, waterspouts
- Mass migration
- Hazardous materials accidents
- Terrorist activities
- Large fires
- Air crashes
- Civil disorders
- Nuclear incident
- Turkey Point

**Monroe County
Emergency Hotline:**
1.800.955.5504

Sign Up for Alert!Monroe:
www.monroecountyem.com/alertmonroe

In 2019, Emergency Management participated with its Emergency Operation Center partners in the Statewide Hurricane Exercise and the FEMA evaluated Regional Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant Exercise. In addition, Emergency Management hosted Incident Command System, Radiological Operations and Incident Response to Mass Fatality training in the County.

Emergency Management worked with municipal and infrastructure partners to secure funding in amounts over \$100 million dollars from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding to harden and protect infrastructure from impacts of future storms.



Have a Plan: In 2019, Monroe County Emergency Management monitored 18 named storms and 20 tropical cyclones. Hurricanes in the Florida Keys can bring high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges, and tornadoes.



Hurricane Dorian Threat: In late August 2019, Monroe County activated its Emergency Operations Center due to the threat of Hurricane Dorian and its possible impacts from wind and prolonged high tides. The major hurricane stayed north of the Florida Keys with little impact.

PLACARD PROGRAM

www.monroecountyem.com/placardprogram

Businesses or organizations that are not represented within the Emergency Operations Center but believe they have an essential response mission can apply for the Business Re-Entry Placard Program. The placard program enrollment period and applications for 2020 will be announced online.

Hurricane Preparedness

THE ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON RUNS JUNE 1 TO NOV. 30.

Over the past century, Monroe County has been struck by several powerful tropical cyclones, including the Category 5 Labor Day Hurricane in 1935 that destroyed Henry Flagler's railroad and most recently, Hurricane Irma.

Monroe County is especially vulnerable to hurricanes because of its geography. Evacuating is challenging with only one evacuation route. Everyone who lives in the Florida Keys should have a hurricane plan.

PREPARE NOW!

- Sign up for Alert!Monroe.
- Determine your evacuation destination: to a relative, friend, motel, hotel or public shelter (as a last resort).
- If you need shelter assistance due to special medical needs, register www.monroecounty-fl.gov/specialneedsregistry.
- All Monroe County shelters are pet-friendly. Register your pet in advance at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/petsregistry.
- Review your insurance policies and coverage.
- Take photos and/or video footage of your property. Visually inspect your home and property.
- Protect windows and doors.
- Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit or Evacuation Bag. Visit: www.monroecounty-fl.gov/emergencykit.
- Residential Re-entry Stickers: www.monroecounty-fl.gov/reentrystickers for more information. Re-entry stickers do not expire.

IF A STORM THREATENS MONROE COUNTY

The best way to get information is through official channels found at the beginning of this guide and to sign up for Alert!Monroe.



Director: Martin Senterfitt
305.289.6065
Senterfitt-Martin@monroecounty-fl.gov



Deputy Director: Shannon Weiner
305.289.6012

Weiner-Shannon@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 7
Budget: \$987,366
(\$414,875 in grant funding)



CERT PROGRAM

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/volunteermonroe

Citizens who go through Monroe County's Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) and become part of the volunteer Monroe Emergency Reserve Corps (MERC) can obtain early re-entry placards.

This also is the time to take action on your preparedness plan, including the following:

- Gather needed supplies for at least three days, including medicine and pet food.
- Gas up your vehicles and make sure they are in good working order.
- Put up your storm shutters and take other protective property measures including securing lawn furniture and boats.
- Charge your cell phone and make sure you have batteries for your portable radio.
- Follow official instructions and monitor official sites.

SHELTERS

Monroe County only offers in-County shelters during storms that are Category 1 or 2. For stronger storms, there will only be shelters on the mainland for County residents. All shelters should be a last resort. No services are provided. For shelter information, go to www.monroecounty-fl.gov/shelters.

RE-ENTRY

Plan to stay at your evacuation destination until it is safe to come back. Monitor official sites for re-entry information. Do not congregate at checkpoints entering the Keys.

Hurricane Irma Recovery

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/hurricaneirma



Disaster Recovery Director

Helene Wetherington

305.289.2524

Wetherington-Helene@monroecounty-fl.gov

Monroe County Hurricane Irma Recovery is an ongoing long-term response since the September 2017 storm made landfall in the Lower Keys.

VOLUNTARY HOME BUYOUT PROGRAM

The State of Florida announced Monroe County will receive \$15 million for the Voluntary Home Buyout Program. The voluntary program aims to reduce community risk by purchasing homes in high flood-risk areas impacted by Hurricane Irma. The City of Marathon will receive an additional \$5 million. The deadline for application for Monroe County's Voluntary Home Buyout Program closed Sept. 23, 2019. Monroe County anticipates that the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity will process the Monroe County sub-recipient agreement to receive funding in summer 2020.

HOUSING RECOVERY STRATEGIES



Housing Recovery Administrator

Juanita Jones

305.289.2560

Jones-Juanita@monroecounty-fl.gov

The Approximate Damage Assessment Results from Hurricane Irma include 1,179 homes destroyed throughout the Keys, and of the 55,000 housing units in the Keys, another 2,977 homes suffered major damage.

DEO HOUSING REPAIR PROGRAM

The Housing Repair Program will rehabilitate or replace single-family and rental housing for low- and moderate-income families impacted by Hurricane Irma. The Dept. of Economic Opportunity will manage and complete the construction on behalf of eligible applicants. Questions regarding the program should be directed to Rebuild Florida at 1.844.833.1010 or www.floridajobs.org/rebuildflorida.

AFFORDABLE WORKFORCE RENTAL HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

The Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) has set aside funding contingent on completing the FHFC underwriting process.

Four projects within Monroe County are considered for new affordable workforce rental housing:

1. The Monroe County Housing Authority is leading the effort to secure funding for two separate projects within the unincorporated County to develop a combined 32 units of affordable housing totaling over \$13 million.
2. The Housing Authority of the City of Key West is in credit underwriting for 103 units totaling over \$11 million.
3. The Florida Keys Community Land Trust is in credit underwriting for 17 units at Seahorse Cottages on Big Pine Key totaling over \$6 million.

The projects are currently in the FHFC credit-underwriting phase of the development process, which involves an extensive due diligence, and review period of 9-12 months. Upon review, projects may be funded, and housing units may begin construction in 2021.

TINY HOMES MODEL PROJECT

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners approved in December 2018 the building of four "Tiny Homes" to serve as code-compliant models for residents who are rebuilding after losing their mobile homes during Hurricane Irma.

The County solicited vendor proposals to design and build four different resilient code compliant prototype tiny homes on County-owned land. These replacement homes will be safer and better suited to survive future storms. To date, the County has been able to negotiate successful contracts with two vendors to proceed with this effort.

- Cornerstone Tiny Homes has received a permit for construction and should break ground in February, 2020 at 39 Jenny Lane in Key Largo.
- RAS Engineering has developed plans and will shortly apply for a permit to construct a tiny home at a site in Big Pine.

The project started in August 2018

247

canals were cleared of marine debris in total

9

canals were cleared of sediment, with two additional ones scheduled for completion in Islamorada in March 2020

The project stayed ahead of schedule and under budget.

65%

Expended 65 percent of the grant funding (\$30 million out of \$45.8 million)

ALL APPROVED CANALS WERE CLEARED

16,401

More than 16,401 cubic yards of debris pulled from local waters

75

local employees hired on eight different crews cleared the canals

Hurricane Irma Marine Debris and Sediment Removal

Monroe County celebrated the clearing of the last canal in the Hurricane Irma United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funded marine debris removal project in Marathon in October 2019.

"For the residents that live here, this is another symbol that we are coming back from Hurricane Irma. So many residents use canals as their highway. This is how they make their livelihoods and for them to have their canals cleared of debris, business will be back to usual."

– Michelle Coldiron, Monroe County Mayor Pro Tem

The County applied for all 503 canals to be cleared, and NRCS selected the canals that were approved. The original project scope started with 103 of the most impacted canals in the Florida Keys. Due to the success of the program, additional canals were approved, totaling 247 canals for marine debris removal and 11 for sediment removal. There are a total of 503 canals in the Florida Keys.

More information on Hurricane Irma restoration efforts can be found at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/hurricaneirma.



Monroe County Administrator Roman Gastesi and Chief Resilience Officer Rhonda Haag celebrate the final canal clearing in October 2019.



Monroe County officials join Senator Marco Rubio when he revisited one of the worst canals in Monroe County after it was cleared in February 2019.



The sediment removal component of the project started in May 2019, clearing nine canals that were filled with Hurricane Irma sediment that made them unnavigable.



Employee Services hosts an annual County-sponsored health and wellness fair where employees attend free workshops and can participate in biometric screenings. Participation is at an all-time high and includes the BOCC, Court Administration, Monroe County Land Authority, Monroe County Property Appraiser, and Monroe County Clerk of Courts.

Employee Services

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/EmployeeServices

The Employee Services Department provides guidance and information to the County's more than 570 employees and the public. The department works to maintain a ready workforce that is talented, fairly-compensated, healthy, diverse and safety-minded while keeping pace with the evolving needs and goals of Monroe County. The department includes Human Resources, Group Insurance Benefits, and Workers' Compensation and Safety.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Administers personnel actions, position recruitment, policies and procedures, and employment law compliance for BOCC employees.

In addition to serving County employees, the Employee Benefits and Workers' Compensation offices provide services to the Monroe County Land Authority and the five Constitutional Officer agencies: Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Property Appraiser, Clerk of the Court, Tax Collector, and Supervisor of Elections.

GROUP INSURANCE BENEFITS

Provides and administers health, prescription, dental, vision, and life coverage to more than 2,400 BOCC and Constitutional Officer employees, retirees, and dependent spouses and children.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Provide safety training and programs as well as workers' compensation to more than 1,700 BOCC employees and constitutional officer's employees.

Manages security programs and systems for County employees, buildings, and other assets.



Director: Bryan Cook

305.292.4558

Cook-Bryan@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 11

Budget: \$28.3 million

NEED A JOB?

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/jobs

Monroe County hires about 100 employees each year in a variety of positions and departments.

For job openings and employment applications, go to the website or apply in person at computer kiosks located in the Historic Gato Building in Key West, Marathon Government Center, and the Key Largo library.

Employees of the Quarter/Year

Monroe County's Senior Management Team selects an Employee of the Quarter from a pool of employees nominated by their peers or supervisors. These employees are chosen for going above and beyond their own work responsibilities while showing a continual demonstration

of the values of Monroe County.

Monroe County's 2019 Employee of the Year is selected from the employees of the quarter. This year, the service award goes to James "Jimmy" Steffen.



JETHON WILLIAMS II
EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Jethon Williams was named Monroe County's 2019 Employee of the Second Quarter for his noteworthy performance that exceeds normal job expectations. Williams was nominated for the award due to his assistance in the creation of time-saving on-boarding videos for new hire orientation.

Williams created a green-screen room for the recording of the presentations, then produced and edited the videos and added graphics and closed captioning.

Williams recently celebrated his tenth anniversary with the County and is also responsible for launching the County's new web streaming and on-demand portal at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mctv. He also completed retrofitting of the three Board of County Commissioners chambers to broadcast in high definition.



JAMES "JIMMY" STEFFEN
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Steffen drives veterans to and from the Miami VA Hospital three days a week, more than 162 miles each way, for typically 12-hour days. He handles the long drive, challenging traffic, unpredictable weather, and unforeseen vehicle issues daily.

In addition to his work ethic and positive attitude, Steffen was awarded the employee of the quarter for his heroism off the clock when he heard a woman screaming who fell into a canal. Steffen jumped into the water, saving her, and kept her from drowning until Monroe County Fire Rescue arrived.

"Jimmy also remained calm and collected when the veteran transportation vehicle he drives blew a tire out on the peak of the 7-mile bridge before sunrise," said Cathy Crane, director of the department. "Jimmy took proper precautions ensuring passenger safety, many of whom applauded his ability to act under pressure with confidence and professionalism. He is very deserving of this recognition."



CRAIG SMITH
EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Craig Smith was announced as the Monroe County Employee of the Third Quarter for his dedicated service during the threat of Hurricane Dorian in September.

During the threat of Hurricane Dorian, lightning created a power surge that caused a fuel pump malfunction to the Marathon system. While being briefed on the issue, Assistant County Administrator Kevin Wilson learned someone (Smith) in Fleet Management had already located and arranged for express delivery of the parts. They were delivered and installed eliminating the need for a mission request with the State of Florida to set up a mobile refueling station due to the hurricane.

Construction was at 90 percent completion at the end of 2019 for Monroe County's \$2.36 million, grant-funded project to rehabilitate the 1938 Pigeon Key Ramp. The ramp – built with timber, concrete, and steel – connects the historic Old Seven Mile Bridge to Pigeon Key.



Engineering Services and Roads Maintenance

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/Engineering

The department includes Engineering Services, Upper and Lower Keys Roads Maintenance Departments and Card Sound Toll Authority. Responsibilities include:

- Management of engineering design, permitting and construction of county transportation infrastructure including roads, sidewalks, bridges, shared-use paths, and associated stormwater management systems.
- Review of right-of-way permit applications, issuance of permits and inspection of work for conformance to county requirements.
- Review of property development/redevelopment applications and road abandonment applications for impacts on county roads and rights-of-way.
- Performing ongoing maintenance on 312 miles of county-maintained roads and 26 bridges, including cutting vegetation, fixing potholes, cleaning storm drains, repairing roadway shoulders, addressing flooding complaints, installing signage, sweeping, and maintaining bicycle and shared-use paths.
- Operating and maintaining the Card Sound Toll All Electronic Tolling System.



Director: Judy Clarke, P.E.
305.295.4329
Clarke-Judith@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 35
Budget: \$21,856,409

By The Numbers

576 miles

Buzz bar operations

1,522 miles

Mowing operations

1,451

miles of sweeping

413

Utility Locates

293

New posts installed

1,849

New signs installed

**STOP BARS
REPAINTED: 120**

Material pick up: 1,491 tons of rock

Trash Picked Up:

3,713 bags weighing about 45,237 pounds

Seaweed Pick Up: 285.4 tons

Shoulder Work: 214,145 linear feet

Trench Drain Work: 992 feet with 523 tons of material used.

Cold Patch used to fill Pot Holes: 10,000 pounds

Asphalt Millings Koehn Subdivision and South Streets BPK: 130 Tons

Pre-hurricane season coconut removal:
91,500 pounds

Pre-hurricane Storm Drain Cleaning:
Key West to Big Pine Key and Upper Keys



2019 ENGINEERING SERVICES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed construction of the Key Largo II Roadway and Drainage Improvement Project (Bay Harbor, Sunset Point, Sunrise Point, Lime Grove Estates subdivisions)
- Completed the engineering design phase for the Stock Island II project (Maloney and McDonald Avenues); construction phase is 60% complete.
- Began engineering design and permitting phase of the Key Largo III Roadway and Drainage Improvement Project (Burton Drive and roads in Harris Ocean Park Estates and Ocean Park Village subdivisions).
- Completed repairs to Lower Keys roads impacted by Hurricane Irma in accordance with FEMA requirements.
- Engineering design and permitting for the Twin Lakes/Sands Subdivisions Sea Level Rise Pilot Project is 90% complete; completion is anticipated in the first quarter of 2020. County has applied for multiple grants to fund the construction phase of the project.
- Began engineering design phase of Koehn Subdivision Roadway and Drainage Project on Big Pine Key. County leveraged local funds by obtaining \$1.4 million of Small County Outreach Program grant funds from FDOT for the construction phase of the project.
- Commenced construction of the Pigeon Key Ramp Restoration Project using FDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant funds and local infrastructure sales tax funds.
- 1st and Bertha Streets Roadway and Drainage Improvement project: continued engineering design and permitting of the project. Collaborated with the City of Key West to utilize City's proposed stormwater pump station at Dennis Street to handle Bertha Street stormwater flows.
- Began engineering design and permitting phase of the Harbor Drive (Duck Key) Bridge Replacement project.
- Completed and submitted Drainage Maintenance Program maps and standard operating procedures to consultant to facilitate higher county rating in the FEMA Flood Insurance Community Rating System (CRS).



Card Sound Toll Authority

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/cardsoundtoll

The toll is completely electronic using Toll-By-Plate or SunPass. No cash is accepted at the toll. The toll helps fund maintenance costs of the road and future repair and replacement of the five bridges along Card Sound Road.

Two discount programs are available for Monroe County residents with two-axle vehicles that use SunPass and have an account in good standing. The two programs are the monthly discount program, which requires no enrollment, and the annual pass program.



KEY LARGO II ROADWAY AND DRAINAGE PROJECT COMPLETE, ON TIME AND UNDER BUDGET

The Key Largo II Roadway and Drainage Improvement Project was completed under budget in August 2019. The project included the installation of 36 drainage structures and reconstruction or milling and resurfacing of 14,870 linear feet of roadway. Based on available sea-level rise data, the design included reconstructing and raising several roads.

Extension Service

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/extensionservices

In the Florida Keys, The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF-IFAS) Monroe County Extension Service provides timely and relevant solutions to improve resident's lives. The Extension Service is dedicated to bringing current, science-based answers to all local horticulture, climate change, energy, small business, and water quality questions -- for free.

The Extension Service provides programs like Master Gardener, Sustainable Floridians, Florida Keys Water Watch, Florida Master Naturalist, and other programs. For the latest information on programs, visit www.facebook.com/MonroeCountyExtension or sign up for the monthly e-mailed newsletter at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/extensionservices.

Highlights Reel

The Extension Service sends the community tips and tricks for Florida Keys residents.

Snippets from the press releases are seen here, but they can be viewed in their entirety at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/extensionblog.



Sargassum macroalgae at a beach in Key West, photo: Liz Yongue

Heavy Sargassum Year in the Florida Keys, by Shelly Krueger

This summer you may have noticed brown seaweed floating in the water and along the shorelines of the Florida Keys. What is it, and why is it coming to shore? The seaweed is a type of open-ocean brown algae, called sargassum. Another common name for sargassum is gulfweed, and it grows on the surface of the open ocean in an area of the North Atlantic Ocean called the Sargasso Sea.

Attracting Birds in the Florida Keys, by Michelle Leonard-Mularz

Many migrating birds seek to rest and refuel in Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges, parks, open spaces, and gardens, as the last stop before continuing southward. However, in order to attract birds and other pollinators to our landscapes, there are certain elements Florida landscapes need to provide them.



The Extension services Shelly Krueger, left, Michelle Leonard-Mularz, and Liz Yongue volunteered at the Climate Summit held in Key West. Director Alicia Betancourt spoke at the summit.

Herbicide Damage to Woody Plants, by Michelle Leonard-Mularz

Distorted growth, severe stunting, and shoot proliferation have all been reported on mature Gumbo Limbo and Buttonwoods. Typically, it is more of an aesthetic problem and does not cause death to plants, but what could be other causes of entire landscapes with this distorted growth?

Invasive Species Invade Paradise, by Michelle Leonard Mularz

An invasive plant is one that is introduced to an area and forms self-sustaining, expanding populations within plant habitats they are not associated with and has long-lasting ecological impacts. Invasive plants displace native plants (along with the birds, insects, pollinators, and other wildlife that are associated with those habitats), which often include threatening and endangered species.

2019 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Environmental Horticulture Agent Michelle Leonard-Mularz held the first Master Gardener course since 2015. Nineteen interns, representing each County District, completed the 9-week training. In 2019, 43 Master Gardener donated more than 2,100 hours helping residents identify and address horticulturally related issues in their gardens and landscapes. This has an estimated value to Monroe County of \$51,470 in volunteer services, which represents one full-time employee.
- Leonard-Mularz also received a grant from Florida Wildflower Foundation to install a wildflower demonstration garden at the Historic Gato Cigar Building in Key



Director: Alicia Betancourt
305.292.4501
Betancourt-Alicia@monroecounty-fl.gov
www.monroe.ifas.ufl.edu
Employees: 4
(3 UF and 1 Monroe County)
Budget: \$236,934



Florida Keys native Blackbeard in bloom



An invasive Beach Naupaka with flowers and fruit

West. The garden will not only serve as an educational tool emphasizing Florida Friendly Landscaping practices, but it will serve as a pathway for pollinators and have a visual impact in an area that is so heavily utilized by travelers, pedestrians, bicyclists, automobile drivers, and buses. The garden will be installed in 2020.

- Marine Agent Shelly Krueger is co-leader for the Florida Coral Disease Outbreak Response Communications and Outreach Team, a partnership with federal agencies, that holds bi-weekly conference calls regarding the stony coral tissue loss disease outbreak in the Florida Reef Tract and the Caribbean. Krueger co-developed a program that trained more than 240 divers to identify and report the disease at Seafan.net/SEAGRANT. She also speaks about the disease on a national and international level.
- Krueger is also the outreach and communication leader for the Florida Keys Community Sponge Restoration Program, in partnership with FWC and nonprofits and universities. In 2019, more than 15,000 sponges at six sponge nurseries in the Florida Keys were restored.
- The Community Development Agent Alicia Betancourt completed the development of two new programs: Climate Smart Floridians is a statewide initiative, which will help people improve resilience and reduce personal and household climate change impacts and The Handbook for Municipal Action on Climate Change to help small local governments be climate-resilient.

Fleet Management

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/fleet

Fleet Management operates, manages and continues to improve County garages located in Key West, Marathon, and Plantation Key. The Department provides safety inspections, maintenance, and repairs for approximately 850 units which include approximately 290 Monroe County Sheriff Department vehicles.

NEED A NEW VEHICLE?

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/surplus

Monroe County's Fleet Management Department sells surplus vehicles and equipment 3 to 4 times annually; more information on surplus items can be found on the website.

BY THE NUMBERS

3,200

Crews at three County garages completed 3,200 work orders while performing preventative maintenance, repairs and safety inspections.

186,500

Garage personnel purchased, distributed and billed for 186,500 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel.

40

Fleet Staff purchased and/or replaced more than 40 County vehicles/units.

The Fleet Department maintains safety and environmental accountability of the three garages and three large capacity fuel tanks, fuel pumps and backup generators located at three separate fueling facilities in Key West, Marathon, and Key Largo. The Department provides fuel 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at the three fully automated sites. Fuel is available to Monroe County staff and the Monroe County School Board, even during electrical power outages.

Fleet continuously is in hurricane planning and preparation mode with in-house maintenance, inspections, repairs and refueling for Monroe County's 70-plus emergency generators.

Additionally, the Fleet Department:

- Resolves manufacturer's vehicle and equipment safety recalls.
- Manages outside warranty, accident repairs, and other outsourced contract maintenance and repairs.
- Operates and maintains a preventative maintenance and repair tracking system, a fuel management tracking system, and recently added a GPS vehicle and equipment tracking system.
- Maintains 70 plus emergency power generators.
- Manages and administers County Fleet contracts and written agreements.
- Responsible for acquiring and disposing of more than 600 county vehicle equipment units.



Fleet Management's Joseph Hilts maintains the undercarriage of a car at the Key West garage.



Norman Haney keeps the fleet running smooth.



Bill Uptegrove diagnoses issues with sheriff vehicles.



Fleet Management's Tammy Acevedo and Tania Stoughton run the department's business administration.



Director: Roy Sanchez

305.292.3572

Sanchez-Roy@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 20

Budget: \$3.4 million

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Purchased and implemented a new fuel tracking and billing system.
- Implemented phase one of the new GPS vehicle and equipment tracking system.
- Added five new 14-kilowatt emergency power generators.
- Added two new mechanic positions; reorganized in-house generator maintenance and repair program.
- Replaced permanently installed backup generator at EMS facilities in Marathon.
- Added automatic transfer for backup generators at public works and fuel facilities in Key Largo.
- Established as a certified Ford warranty provider.
- Access to free online Dodge diagnostic information.

GOALS

- Complete phase two of the new GPS vehicle and equipment tracking system.
- Complete and implement a new Fleet budget billing format.
- Complete reorganization of duties and responsibilities for all fleet administration and garage staff.
- Sell or dispose of all backlogged County surplus vehicles and equipment.
- Progressively improve garages, garage tools, equipment, and facilities.
- Identify and promote ECO driving practices countywide.



Information Technology

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/informationtechnology

Monroe County Information Technology (IT) provides efficient, reliable, and cost-effective technology, telephone, and video services to County employees, the Constitutional Officers' agencies, and other governmental offices, including the Public Defender, State Attorney Office, 16th Judicial, Medical Examiner, Land Authority, Tourist Development Council, and the Arts Council. The department strives to be innovative and resourceful to support the IT needs of Monroe County.

Services offered by the Monroe County IT department include:

- End user computing support from the Service Desk, supplies and maintains desktops/laptops, monitors, phones, software, printers, etc.
- Infrastructure support services for IT infrastructure, including the data center, networks, servers, telecommunications, hardware, etc.
- IT applications support for enterprise software, business systems, and web integration.
- IT services for project management and procurement.
- TV broadcast and audio-visual needs through Monroe County Television (MCTV).



Maria Guerra, the Senior Coordinator in the IT office, answers questions for staff members.



Joe Tuttle of IT checks over new equipment when it arrives and helps staff members understand and integrate new technology.



Geoffrey Patomson, Infrastructure Engineer, Network and Fiber Optic Cabling, makes sure the County is ready in case of an emergency.



Jethon Williams live broadcasts the 2019 Climate Summit from Casa Marina in Key West.



Director: Alan MacEachern
305.453.8792
MacEachern-Alan@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 16
Budget: \$3 million

MONROE COUNTY TELEVISION (MCTV)

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mctv

TV/Multimedia Manager: Jethon Williams II

Williams-Jethon@monroecounty-fl.gov

MCTV@monroecounty-fl.gov

305.295.5128

IT operates Monroe County Television (MCTV), the in-house government television station that broadcasts on Comcast channel 76, AT&T U-verse channel 99, ROKU and streams online via web and mobile applications at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mctv.

MCTV live-broadcasts all meetings of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners, including special meetings and the annual budget meetings and other Monroe County board and committee meetings.

2019 IT MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Implemented MCEsearch, a modern web based search tool allowing Monroe County residents to quickly and easily search for permit and code compliance information
- Implemented an enterprise backup solution in support of the County's 50+ servers, extending our restoration window from less than 2 weeks to more than a year
- Established a server architecture (operating system, database, monitoring, alerting) then rebuilt all servers to reference that architecture – standardizing and optimizing our environment
- Upgraded network architecture (both wired and wireless) across all buildings to improve performance and resiliency
- This year, the department relocated and completed the upgrade of MCTV broadcast infrastructure and fiber broadcast connection to Miami to support enhanced broadcasting capabilities for normal and emergency operations.

MEETING BROADCASTS

All televised County meetings are rebroadcast one week following their original broadcast and are posted to Video On Demand one day later.

Recordings of BOCC, Planning Commission and other meetings can be found on the MCTV Video on demand system (<https://monroe-fl.vod.castus.tv/vod>) and duplication requests for meetings can be submitted via the online Duplication Request Form at www.monroecounty-fl.com/mctv, or downloaded from Video On Demand.

MCTV also broadcasts information in the event of a hurricane or other local emergency as well as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather audio.

MCTV's primary programming consists of live, pre-recorded programs and original content as well as Local, State and Federal Public Service announcements. MCTV also airs children's educational programming on Saturday mornings and afternoons.

This year, MCTV relocated and completed the upgrade of the County's broadcast infrastructure and fiber broadcast connection to Miami to support enhanced broadcasting capabilities for normal and emergency operations.

Also, upgrades were done on obsolete MCTV broadcast equipment at the three meeting locations to enable enhanced remote management capabilities and improve the ability to record and broadcast meetings. All meetings are now broadcast and recorded in high definition with the exception of Comcast and AT&T.

Legislative Affairs

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/legislativeaffairs

The Office of Legislative Affairs regularly performs the following functions:

- Develops Monroe County's annual federal and state legislative agendas, identifies priority legislation and appropriations, determines specific strategies for achieving those priorities.
- Advances County's federal and state legislative priorities while guarding against legislation with negative impacts for Monroe County.
- Directs and manages federal and state lobbyists, assigns tasks, confers weekly, and tracks progress.
- Monitors congressional and state legislation, agency regulatory actions, preemptions, and budgets for potential impacts to Monroe County; advises Commissioners and staff with appropriate actions.
- Schedules and manages legislator and agency meetings, fly-ins, etc. and prepares itineraries, written materials, and legislative packages.
- Prepares all written legislative communications including talking points, tri-folds, leave-behinds, and resolutions.
- Represents Monroe County in statewide and national legislative organizations, like FAC, Small County Coalition, Climate Compact, Gulf Coast Parishes and Counties, and NACO.
- Informs and appraises municipalities of Monroe County's federal and state legislative agendas.



The Office oversees and monitors:

- Restore Act Program in response to the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill in 2010
- Local Multi-Year Implementation Plan and monitoring of the Gulf Consortium's State Expenditure Plan, management of local pot and Consortium pot grant funds, and development and submission of applications for this funding
- Everglades Restoration and protection of Florida Bay
- Licensing and remediation activities related to the Turkey Point Nuclear Facility.



Tennyson and the County's Public Information Officer Kristen Livengood, joined other South Florida officials on the USS John C. Stennis aircraft carrier while the ship conducted training exercises off Key West with Key West Naval Air Station, an important military asset within Monroe County. During the overnight visit, the group learned the inner workings of the naval warship, watched flight training exercises on deck, and talked with the leadership and the hardworking men and women serving in the United States Navy.



Director: Lisa Tennyson

305.292.4444

Tennyson-Lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 1



STATE REPRESENTATION

State Representative

Holly Raschein, State House District 120
District Office: 99198 Overseas Hwy, Suite 10, Key Largo
305.453.1202

State Senator Anitere Flores

State Senate District 36
District Office: 11401 SW 40th Street, Suite 465, Miami, FL 33165
305.222.4117

Gov. Ron DeSantis

400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
850.717.9337

FEDERAL REPRESENTATION

Senator Marco Rubio

www.rubio.senate.gov
305.596.4224;
202.224.3011
Miami Office: 7400 SW 87th Ave., Suite 270, Miami, FL 33173

Senator Rick Scott

202.224.5274
www.rickscott.senate.gov

Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, District 26

www.mucarsel-powell-house.gov
202.229.2778
Key West office: 1100 Simonton St., Suite 1-123

2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Monroe County's state legislative focus includes: Stewardship Act appropriations, protection of its nearshore water quality, land acquisition needs, wind insurance affordability, and vacation rental regulations. The County is currently advocating for legislation to codify joint County/State shared financial responsibility for future potential takings cases.

Policy Bills:

- SB 748/HB 587: Takings Claims in Areas of Critical State Concern (aka "50-50 Liability" bill) have been filed in both Chambers by Rep. Raschein and Sen. Flores.
- Local Vacation Rental bill to exempt Florida Keys' local governments from statewide preemption of vacation rental regulations.
- Citizens Wind Insurance bill for a reduction of annual glide path from 10 to 5 percent.

Appropriations Requests:

- Stewardship Appropriation: The county will be seeking legislative appropriations of \$20 million for water quality, \$5 million for land acquisitions.
- HB 2731: Compensation to Property Owners requesting for reimbursement of the State's 50 percent share of the two judgments the County has paid for \$460,000.
- HB 2813: Monroe County Mobile Vessel Pump out Program for \$750,000.
- HB 4205: Guidance Care Center's Baker Act Receiving Facility for \$500,000.



County Attorney Bob Shillinger, Tennyson, and Commissioner David Rice discuss Monroe County issues in Tallahassee.



Roman Gastesi, Heather Carruthers, and Lisa Terryson promote the 2019 legislative priorities in Washington D.C.

2020 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

This year the County's federal priorities include:

- Supporting reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and protecting its affordability
- Supporting timely FEMA Public Assistance Reimbursement for Hurricane Irma
- Opposing oil drilling and exploration, lease expansion and seismic testing on federal lands and waters
- They also include support of 2020 funding for:
 - Full and long-term mandatory funding of the Payments In Lieu of Taxes program.
 - Full funding of the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Program via the Army Corps of Engineers annual Work Plans.
 - Full funding of the South Florida Geographic Program/Florida Keys Water National Marine Sanctuary Quality Protection Program in annual Interior and Environment Appropriations bills.
 - Efforts to improve the health of Florida Bay by restoring adequate freshwater flows through the Everglades. Support funding for Reservoir, construction, and other elements of the Central Everglades Planning Project.

To view the agendas, visit www.monroecounty-fl.gov/legislativeaffairs.



Florida Keys Day

Monroe County Commissioners, senior staff, officials from Florida Keys municipalities, and local business owners travel to the state capital each year to annual Florida Keys Day, a day set aside in Tallahassee to discuss all things Florida Keys related. In March 2019, in addition to meeting with legislators, Monroe County's 2019 Mayor Sylvia Murphy presented Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis with an Honorary Conch Certificate on the Old Capitol steps.

Along with Murphy, Commissioners Heather Carruthers, David Rice, and Michelle Coldiron, County Administrator Roman Gastesi, County Attorney Bob Shillinger, Legislative Affairs Director Lisa Tennyson, and Finance Director Tina Boan discussed issues including the county's proposed 50-50 Liability Bill, Stewardship Act funding, vessel pump-out funding, and other Monroe County matters of concern.

The jam-packed day also included Assistant County Administrator Kevin Wilson and Project Management's Cary Knight touring the Leon County Emergency Operations. Assistant County Administrator Christine Hurley and her planning, environmental,

housing, and hurricane recovery staff met with the Department of Environmental Protection, Volunteer Florida, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Housing Finance Corporation, and the Department of Economic Opportunity.

The group was recognized on the floor by Rep. Holly Raschein and also met with the officials from Citizens Property Insurance, the Judiciary Committee, the Department of Business and Professional Regulations, Emergency Management, the Attorney General, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Visit Florida, and more.

Florida Keys Day is hosted by Raschein and State Sen. Anitere Flores and is a product of the 2009 Leadership Monroe County Class XVII. The day ended with a sponsored reception with about 1,000 people enjoying popular Keys fare, like conch fritters, lion-fish ceviche, and, of course, Key Lime pie.

Monroe County will represent the interests of Florida Keys residents again at the 12th Annual Florida Keys Day to be held Feb. 4, 2020.

Project Management

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/projectmanagement



The Monroe County Project Management Office contracts and builds all new public facilities for Monroe County, manages assigned special projects, and serves as the Tourist Development Council's grant compliance inspection service.

The office also manages all capital improvement projects for existing buildings, parks, beaches, and boat ramps. The department currently manages more than 100 capital projects with a total multi-year capital construction budget of \$100 million.

The Project Management Department provides information and resources needed to make informed decisions.

The services provided include:

- Capital Improvement Construction
- Facility Relocation
- Capital Expansion Construction
- Cost Forecasting
- Scheduling

The majority of this work is funded by the One-Cent Infrastructure Sales Tax. Grant awards account for significant supplemental capital funding. In 2019, the office assisted or was directly responsible for more than \$20 million in grant awards.

2019 MAJOR COMPLETIONS

- Phase 1 of East Martello Museum Drainage Project: \$1 million
- East Martello Museum Roof: \$1 million
- Monroe County Transfer Stations – New Scale Buildings at 3 locations: \$1 million

Major Capital Incentives

- Plantation Key Courthouse & Detention Center: \$34 million
- Monroe County's Marathon Branch Library and Adult Education Center: \$6 million
- Cudjoe Key Fire Station: \$4 million
- Monroe County Emergency Operations Center: \$22 million
- Key West Senior Center: \$4 million
- Lower Keys Scenic Viewing Area & Nature Center: \$2 million
- Higgs Beach Park Access Road Realignment: \$5 million
- Public Defender Key West Offices: \$4 million
- 1892 Sheriff Residence & Jail Museum: \$1.5 million
- Pigeon Key Honeymoon Cottage & Commissary Restorations: \$1.5 million
- West Martello Museum Brick & Mortar: \$1 million
- Jackson Square Chiller Building: \$2 million
- Jackson Square Communications Tower Relocation: \$1 million



Director: Cary Knight

305.292.4527

Knight-Cary@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 9

Budget: \$100 million

Groundbreakings

Project Management hosts groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings for Monroe County buildings. Project Management debuted web and cellular-based job site construction cameras to the commission earlier in 2019. The job site cameras are solar-powered and upload images to a cloud-based system every minute. Images are assembled within the cloud to create a time-lapse video of the construction site. A public interface web page allows time-lapse video and images to be viewed from the cloud. County staff and the engineering team can view the site in real-time with streaming high definition video or on-demand historical surveillance video from start to finish of the project.

Right now, several projects, like the Monroe County Fire Department project on Cudjoe Key, the Marathon library project, and the Plantation Key Courthouse can be followed at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/projectmanagement.

Marathon library

The construction on the state of the art, user-centric legacy building is funded through the one-cent infrastructure sales tax. The new design will be open, modern, and flexible and has also incorporated solar energy. The new branch has a tentative opening date in September 2020.

"The new Marathon branch will be a customer-centric operation with flexible space that offers our community cutting edge technology. It will be a legacy building and will truly be the community's living room."

– Roman Gastesi



Total Square Feet: 13,969
First floor 7,904 (The first floor will include the adult education center, the center will include just under 1400 square feet)
Second floor 6,875 square feet
Built to a 200-mile per hour wind load with finished first floor 2 foot above the flood plain.

Plantation Key Courthouse and Detention Facility

The project will consolidate the existing functions on the site into a new state-of-the-art 48,240 square foot facility and should take about 30 months to complete.

The new space will include:

- 16th Judicial Circuit of Florida
- Monroe County Clerk of the Court
- State Attorney's Office
- Monroe County Sheriff's Office
- Monroe County Public Works

The tenants will continue to work in the old building adjacent to the construction while the new facility is built. According to Upper Keys historian Jerry Wilkinson, the original building, the sheriff's substation, was built in 1958 with additions, like the courthouse and other government offices, dedicated in 1967.

Infrastructure

The County owns and is responsible for vital infrastructure throughout the Florida Keys, including some infrastructure located within Monroe County's five municipalities.

The County's infrastructure responsibilities:

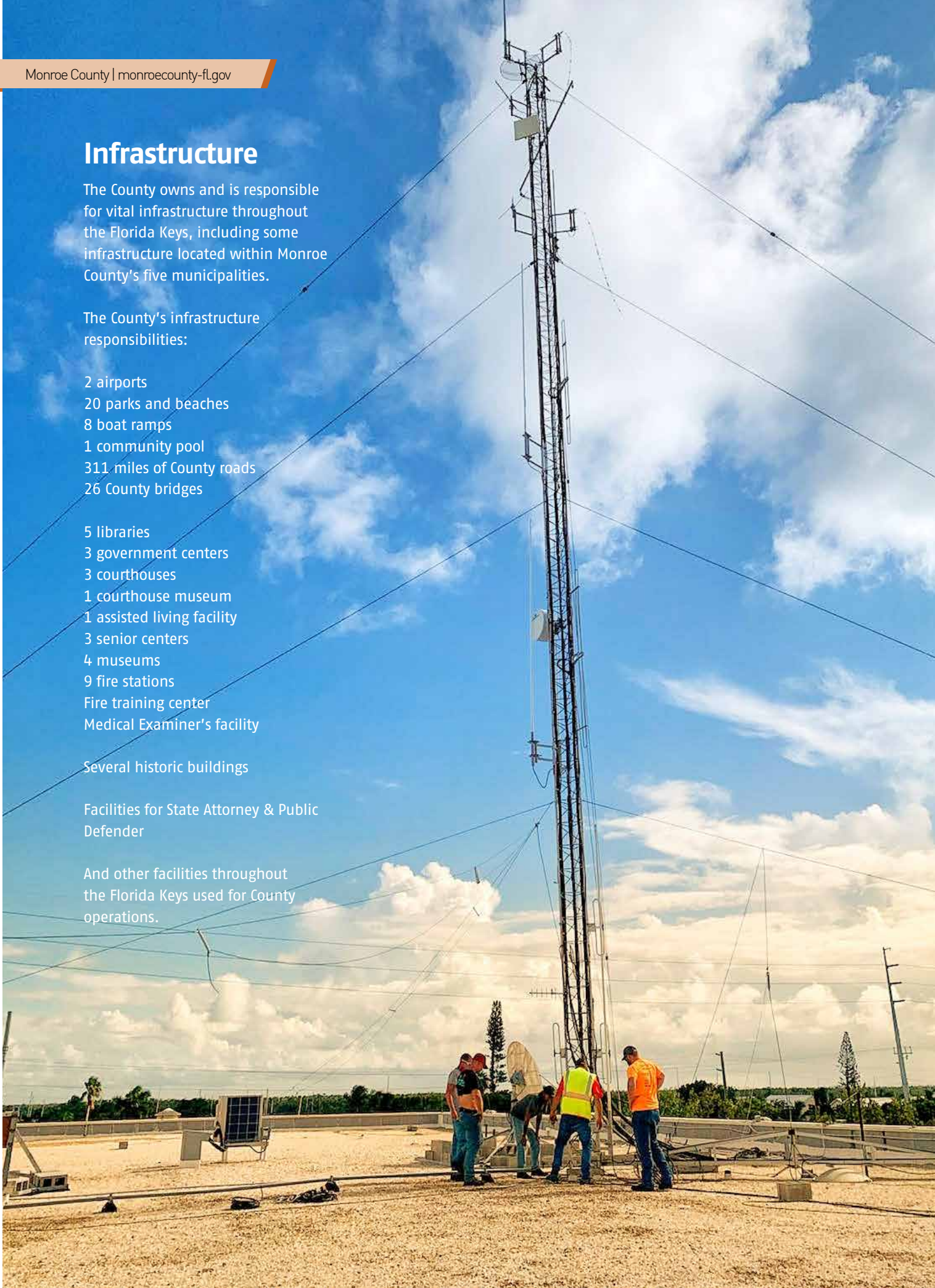
- 2 airports
- 20 parks and beaches
- 8 boat ramps
- 1 community pool
- 311 miles of County roads
- 26 County bridges

- 5 libraries
- 3 government centers
- 3 courthouses
- 1 courthouse museum
- 1 assisted living facility
- 3 senior centers
- 4 museums
- 9 fire stations
- Fire training center
- Medical Examiner's facility

Several historic buildings

Facilities for State Attorney & Public Defender

And other facilities throughout the Florida Keys used for County operations.



Infrastructure Repairs

HURRICANE IRMA

The Project Management Office oversees \$21 million in work to repair damage caused by Hurricane Irma at 48 structures, 17 parks, 7 boat ramps, and 3 tower sites. The office also managed more than \$2 million in emergency and protective measures as a result of damage to buildings in the months following Irma.

MONROE COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR PROGRAM

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program was launched with \$85,819,653 to fund infrastructure restoration and improvement projects in communities impacted by Hurricane Irma. The funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program to address unmet disaster recovery needs related to damage from Hurricane Irma. Eligible counties, municipalities, water management districts, and water authorities located in the areas that experienced Hurricane Irma storm damage are eligible to apply for funding.

HISTORIC RESOURCES DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT

Monroe County were granted the funding from a \$4.9 million Historic Resources Disaster Supplemental subgrant. The three County projects ranked in the top seven projects out of the 19 applications submitted statewide. The projects include repairs of the Key West Lighthouse roof for \$138,932, Fort West Martello citadel repairs for \$500,000, and foundation work for the historic Honeymoon Cottage and commissary that both need foundation work on Pigeon Key for \$482,550. Damages to the historic properties stem from Hurricane Irma in 2017.

Boat Ramps

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/boatramps

Unincorporated Monroe County has eight boat ramps that are available for public use. The County ramps are free for Monroe County residents.

BIG COPPITT KEY BARCELONA RAMP

Gulf View Boat Ramp,
Barcelona Avenue
MM 9.3 -- 24°36'06" N
81°40'00" W
-The ramp has a one-lane concrete ramp intended for small boat access to Waltz Key Basin. There are 5 parking spaces in an adjacent gravel parking area. The County recently improved the ramp.

BIG PINE KEY

Koehn Avenue, MM 30.8
Bayside
-The ramp is intended for small boats and kayaks only and will accommodate light to moderate use. Limited parking on the road shoulder.

Eden Pines, MM 30.8 Bayside
-No parking, launch only.
The ramp is intended for small and large boats.

CUDJOE KEY

Blimp Road, MM 21.2
Bayside
-Dirt shoulder parking at the end of the street. The ramp is intended for small and large boats.

GEIGER KEY

Geiger Key Boat Launch, next door to Geiger Key Marina
-The ramp is intended for small boats and kayaks only and will accommodate light to moderate use.

KEY LARGO

Sunset Point Park, 24 Sunset Road
MM 95.2 -- 25°02'59" N
80°29'21" W
-Provides access to the bayside and has one paved/concrete ramp surface. The ramp is intended for small boats and kayaks only and will accommodate light to moderate use. The parking area is pea rock with six truck/trailer spaces, trash cans, and a picnic table.

LITTLE TORCH KEY

State Road 4A, MM 28.5
Bayside
-The ramp is intended for small and large boats. There is limited parking across the street for trailers.

TAVERNIER

Harry Harris Park,
50 Beach Rd
MM 92.5 -- 25°01'28" N
80°29'39" W
-A concrete double ramp is separated by a finger pier and was resurfaced in 2019. It provides access to the Atlantic Ocean. The ramp is intended for small and large boats and is heavily used. Parking is limited to 20 trailers. (\$10 fee for non-residents).

Facilities Maintenance and Public Works

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/facilities

Facilities Maintenance and Public Works is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and operations of more than 100 County-owned parks or buildings. When a facility needs significant repair or improvement, the department collaborates with the Project Management department.

The department maintains more than 1 million square feet of County space and leased properties throughout the Keys. These include public facilities and offices, correctional facilities, historic properties, museums, parks, beaches, and boat ramps. The department also is responsible for testing air quality, certifying and maintaining alarm systems, and maintenance of elevators.

The department has offices in Key West, Big Pine Key, Marathon, and Key Largo. In 2018, the department continued to spend a large amount of time on Hurricane Irma recovery efforts.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

- Installed new shade sails over the Wilhelmina Park playground and Key Largo Park. The Key Largo park also got all new playground equipment.
- Moved Upper Keys Nutrition Site to Tradewinds Plaza with a complete build-out of new space.
- Completed renovation of the Health Department at the Roth Building with new AC ducts, new ceiling tiles, drywall, and flooring.
- Replaced front and exterior doors at Big Coppitt Fire Station.
- Repainted front entrance of Key West Library to include texturized slip proof paint on front steps and entry.
- Replaced all benches at Big Pine Park Bocce Courts and install lighting at the bocce courts.



Facilities Director: William DeSantis

305.292.4532

DeSantis-William@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 82

Budget: \$10.1 million

CORRECTION FACILITIES

Director: Dan Bensley

305.295.3997

Bensley-Dan@monroecounty-fl.gov

Admin: Martina Lake

Lake-Martina@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 10

The Correction Facilities Department provides 24-hour, routine and emergency maintenance to Monroe County Sheriff's Office's (MCSO) three detention facilities, three substations, the headquarters building, and the Trauma Star hanger. The employees are skilled from plumbing to locksmithing and provide the best support services for maintaining multiple well-functioning and safe facilities throughout Monroe County.

- Provide routine maintenance to all MCSO buildings.
- Ensure that all accreditation standards are met by Correction Public works employees.
- Assist with the development of new MCSO buildings and improvements.



JT Null of Public Works helps out rain or shine.



Robert Glassmer is honored with throwing the first pitch of the 2019 little league season in Key Largo.



Bill Rieck replaces lighting in Key West.



Let there be light! Carlton Howard, left, and Rony Desire flip on the lights at Big Pine Keys Community Park for the first time since Hurricane Irma.



New shade structures are added or replaced at several playgrounds in 2019.

County Historic Properties & Museums

TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME

Monroe County owns and maintains multiple historic properties, four of which have been developed into museums. Some of the historic properties maintained by the County include the 1890 Courthouse in Key West, the 1916 Gato Cigar Factory in Key West, the 1914 Truman School now serving the public as the Harvey Government Center in Key West, the 1892 Key West Sheriff Residence and Jail, and the 1936 Tavernier School.

Museum locations include Pigeon Key, a small island two miles offshore of Marathon, the Key West Lighthouse and Keeper's Quarters, and the East and West Martello Civil War Forts.

PIGEON KEY

While Henry Flagler was building the Oversea Railway to Key West in the early 1900s, more than 400 workers lived in the railroad village on Pigeon Key, located in the path of the Old Seven Mile Bridge. Pigeon Key had a post office, commissary and one-room school while the bridge was being built from 1908 to 1912.

When a hurricane destroyed the railway in 1935, Pigeon Key became the headquarters for the Florida Road and Toll Bridge District. Starting in 1968, the island served for 20 years as an environmental field station for international researchers studying tropical marine and island ecologies with the University of Miami. In 1993, the Pigeon Key Foundation assumed stewardship and began restoration efforts to turn it into a museum.

In 2017, Hurricane Irma caused substantial damage to the 1912 Commissary and the 1940 Honeymoon Cottage knocking both structures off their foundations. In 2018, the Pigeon Key Foundation asked the County to manage the repair and restoration of these two buildings. Shoring, repair, and construction began in early 2020 and will take two years to complete.

PIGEON KEY FERRY

The ferry makes daily departures at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. from Pigeon Key Visitor's Center, 2010 Overseas Highway in Marathon. The ferry cost includes historical tour and island access. \$12 per person. Monroe County residents \$9. Children under 5 are free. For more information, call 305-743-5999 or visit www.pigeonkey.net.



EAST AND WEST MARTELLO CIVIL WAR FORTS

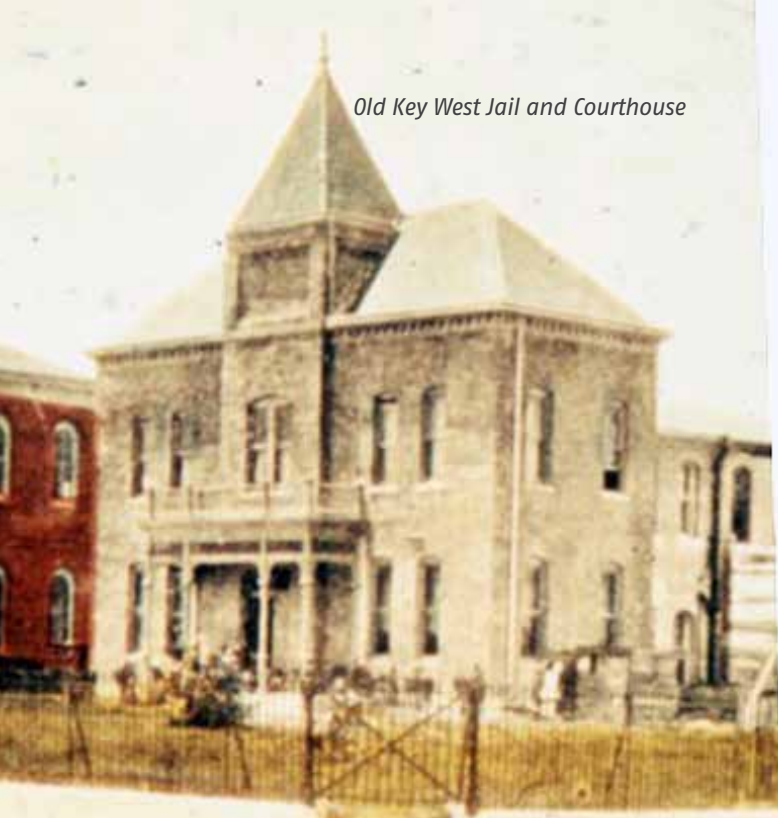
In 1822, the U.S. Navy surveyed sites for a fort to command the harbor in Key West. In 1836, the U.S. Army and a French military engineer drew up plans for a set of nine forts to command Key West harbor. The high cost led to revising the plan to just Fort Zachary Taylor and two advanced batteries, the East and West Martello Towers.

The two towers built in the mid-1860s on what is now South Roosevelt Boulevard were never armed or involved in a battle. They were used during the Spanish American War in 1898 for quartering troops and from 1914-44, they were used for radio stations and an anti-aircraft battery on the beach.

In 1947, the Army-owned towers became the property of Monroe County. The West Tower had become an eyesore to the shoreline with pressure in 1949 to demolish it and put in a new beach area. County Commissioner Joe Allen convinced the County Commission to stop the demolition.

The Key West Garden Club entered into a land-lease agreement with the County. The West Tower was declared a National Historic Site by the State of Florida in 1976 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Admission for the Fort East Martello Museum is \$12 for adults, \$5 for children (6 and up), children under 6 are free, \$5 for students with ID, free for Monroe County students, and \$9 for Monroe County residents and seniors 62 and older. www.kwahs.org.



The Key West Art & Historical Society restored the East Tower and opened Fort East Martello Museum in 1950 as the first museum in the Keys.

In 1972, it was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. The museum now houses the imaginative metal sculptures of Stanley Papio and Robert the Doll, a supposedly haunted doll belonging to the late artist Robert Eugene Otto.

In 2018, the County started restoration of the historic brick at both the East and West Martello that will continue through 2020. East Martello also is receiving drainage upgrades, road and parking repairs, and new roofing, which was completed in 2019. Funding was provided by the Monroe County Tourist Development Council.

KEY WEST LIGHTHOUSE AND KEEPERS' QUARTERS MUSEUM

After the first Key West Lighthouse was destroyed in an 1846 hurricane, a new lighthouse that stood 50 feet tall was constructed. In 1894, the growth of trees and taller buildings in Key West led to it being raised so the light was about 100 feet above sea level.

Admission for the Lighthouse, at 938 Whitehead Street, is \$12 for adults, \$5 for children (6+), children under 6 are free, \$5 for students with ID, free for Monroe County students, and \$9 for Monroe County residents and seniors 62 and older. www.kwahs.org.

The Coast Guard decommissioned the Key West Lighthouse in 1969 and it was turned over to Monroe County. The County leases it to the Key West Art & Historical Society as a museum. One item on display is the first-order Fresnel lens from Sombrero Key Lighthouse.

Future plans include the restoration of the Oil House into exhibition space, which will display how the lighthouse was fueled.

1892 KEY WEST JAIL RESTORATION MUSEUM PROJECT TO START IN EARLY 2020

Monroe County Project Management will start the restoration of the 1892 Key West Jail in early 2020. The first phase includes roof replacement, door and window restoration, and spalling repairs. In the second phase, non-historic features of the building will be removed and fire protection, required ADA access, restrooms, and museum facilities will be added. The tentative opening date is summer 2021. To read the full historical structure report, visit www.monroecounty-fl.gov/keywestjail.

A CONDENSED HISTORY OF THE KEY WEST JAIL

The 1892 jail had been specifically designed to mimic the Monroe County Courthouse, built just two years earlier. Both the jail and courthouse were considered impressive civic accomplishments, and symbols of Monroe County's position as the most populous city in Florida at that time with the U.S. Census showing more than 18,000 citizens in Key West.

The 1892 jail was the fifth jail built at the historic Jackson Square. In 1907, a 10-foot high concrete wall was built around the jail and in 1910 the jail was expanded to increase capacity with a two-story concrete cell block.

In 1952, the front of the old jail was demolished and replaced with a new jail and office for the Monroe County Sheriff. In 1965, the sheriff's office was replaced with a courthouse annex. This annex was expanded in the 1980s. At that time, the north section of the 1907 wall was removed. Today, only the rear portion of the 1892 building remains, along with the entire 1910 addition and the 1910 cell block.



KEY LARGO

Rowell's Waterfront Park

MM 104.5 on U.S. 1, Bayside

This 8-acre park along the Bay opened as a passive park in 2016. The County hosted several informal public meetings in 2019 for community input for a conceptual drawing for the future park. The passive park is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to a half-hour after sunset.

County Parks & Beaches

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/parks

PARKS & BEACHES

Unincorporated Monroe County maintains 20 parks and beaches, covering more than 100 acres of the island chain. Some parks have rentable community rooms and other amenities.

BIG COPPITT KEY

Big Coppitt Volunteer Fire Department Park

280 Avenue F

The park includes a basketball court, roller hockey rink, bocce courts, horseshoe pits, and a handball court. It also has six tables and benches.

Wilhelmina Harvey Park

373 Avenue F

The family-friendly park has a playground and swing set area, a picnic area with an open grassy area and a small walking trail. The park is pet-friendly.

BIG PINE KEY

Blue Heron Park

Lytton's Way, left, from U.S. 1 and Wilder Road

The park has three pickleball courts. The rest of the park remains closed for Hurricane Irma repairs.

Watson Field Park and Big Pine Key Dog Park

30150 South Street

It features a baseball field, sand volleyball courts, two tennis courts, and a dog park with a grassy playing field. The County installed new fencing in early 2019 due to Hurricane Irma damage.

Palm Villa Park

End of Palm Avenue and Wilder

This small pocket park has a picnic table and playground.

Big Pine Key Community Park

31009 Atlantis Road, at the end of Sands Road.

This 10-acre waterfront park has a playground, skate park, tennis, bocce, shuffleboard, pickleball, and a fitness trail. The roller hockey rink, basketball court, handball courts, and baseball field were repaired in 2019 from Hurricane Irma damage. There is also a community center, which can be used for meetings and parties. Lighting Repairs were completed in 2019.



GEIGER KEY

Boca Chica Beach

354 Boca Chica Road

This relatively secluded beach is a great spot to see a multitude of sea life.

KEY LARGO

Friendship Park

69 Hibiscus Drive

This 3-acre park has a playground, baseball diamond, basketball courts, and shaded structures.

Key Largo Community Park & Pool

500 St. Croix Place

This 14-acre park features the Jacobs Aquatic Center, playing fields, a fitness course, tennis courts, volleyball nets, basketball courts, handball, and skateboarding amenities. Admission fees apply for the pool.

Murray E. Nelson Government Center Park

102050 Overseas Highway

This park is at the back of the government center. It features five pavilions, restrooms, and picnic tables. It is accessible for small boats. Kayaks and canoes can be launched at the park.

KEY WEST

Higgs Beach

1040 Atlantic Blvd

The park along the ocean offers swimming, snorkeling, beach volleyball, tennis, and pickleball. It includes a dog park and Astro City, a large sandy playground with barbecue pits, a volleyball court, and picnic tables. The County is working on a project to renovate the area, which includes relocating Atlantic Boulevard for safety reasons.

Key West Pines Park

3501 South Roosevelt Blvd

This picnic area under Australian pines is a good place to watch planes take off from Key West International Airport or the beautiful sunrises over the water. Pets are allowed. The park is home to an annual food truck festival and staging for the annual Zombie Bike Ride in October.

LITTLE DUCK KEY

Veterans Memorial Park and Beach

West end of the 7 Mile Bridge, MM 40 on U.S. 1

After suffering extensive damage from Hurricane Irma in 2017, the oceanside Veterans Memorial Park reopened in March 2019. The parking lot and beach are open to the public. The permanent bathrooms and one pavilion at the site need further renovations and will remain closed. There are portalet facilities on site available for use.



RAMROD KEY

Ramrod Park

Corner of Bay Shore and Pruitt Drive

The park is vacant and sandy. Visitors can enjoy walking or relaxing on the sand while watching the sunset.

SADDLEBUNCH KEYS

Bay Point Park

6 West Circle Drive, MM 15 on U.S. 1

The park features benches, picnic tables, and barbeque pits. There is a sand volleyball court, a basketball court, a tennis court, and a bocce court. It also has a sandy playground with swing sets and a jungle gym, a large grassy field, and a soccer net.

STOCK ISLAND

Bernstein Park

6751 Fifth St.

Bernstein Park was renovated in August 2018. The \$7.9 million renovation project included a new 5,500 square-foot community center, playground, basketball court, walking path, elevated athletic fields, and field lighting. The County recently added a new grant-funded "Fit Court" to the property.

TAVERNIER

Old Settlers Park

MM 92.5 on U.S. 1, Oceanside

This historic location has been transformed into a small park with a pavilion, picnic table, walking trail, and playground. Benches are scattered throughout the park to provide visitors with a place to enjoy the scenic ocean views. Pets are allowed.

Harry Harris Park

End of East Beach Road

The 21-acre park features two boat ramps, pavilions, barbecue grills, picnic tables, a playground, a basketball court, and a protected beach and swimming area. The two ball fields destroyed by Irma were rebuilt with new clay, dugouts, and bleachers and reopened in early 2019. Ball field lighting repairs were completed in early 2020.

Social Services

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/socialservices

The Social Services Department provides a holistic approach to case management, interim financial assistance, medical assistance, and other life-sustaining supportive assistance to eligible individuals and families in need of these services throughout Monroe County.

Monroe County Social Services assists a growing and diverse population with a number of long-standing local, state, and federal programs with three staffed offices throughout Monroe County.

Offices:

- Key West at the Gato Building
- Key Largo at Tradewinds Plaza.
- Satellite office in Marathon at the 63rd Street Government Annex.

The Social Services department is committed to offering basic and life-sustaining services to each citizen in need in Monroe County. Priority is available for families and households with very young children, disabled individuals, and/or elderly citizens.

In 2019, there were more than 3,000 office visits and more than 8,000 incoming calls from citizens seeking assistance from our wide variety of programs and services.

The Social Services Department provides and manages the following services and programs:

Assistive Device Loaner Program: Loans equipment to families and individuals who cannot otherwise afford items like wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, electric wheelchairs/scooters, shower chairs, bedside commodes, etc. This program is need-based, not eligibility-based.

Consumable Supplies: Provides consumable supplies to eligible individuals who cannot otherwise afford them like adult diapers or briefs, bed pads, wipes, disposable gloves, nutritional drinks, etc.

Energy Assistance: The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally-funded program that helps low-income households with their home energy bills. Priority assistance is provided to households that include the elderly, disabled, or very young children. This program provides financial relief from high-energy costs in order to prevent service disconnection for families

and individuals in crisis. This year, Social Services has served more than 470 households countywide with more than \$128,000 in grant funding.

Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA) Program: HCRA was enacted in order to ensure that adequate and affordable health care is available to all Floridians. Social Services is responsible for determining HCRA eligibility.

In-Home Services: Homemaking, personal care, chore, companionship for the elderly, shopping assistance, in-home or facility-based respite, and group and individual caregiver training to eligible elderly and disabled individuals throughout Monroe County.

Medicaid Reimbursement for Hospitals & Nursing Homes: Per Section 409.915, Florida Statutes, the Department of Revenue is responsible for collecting from counties the share of costs for Medicaid recipients. Although the state is responsible for the full portion of the state share of the matching funds required for the Medicaid program, the state is required to charge the county an annual amount in order to acquire a certain portion of the funds.

Indigent/Pauper Cremations and Burials: Coverage of final cremation or burial expenses for individuals who are deemed eligible as indigent or paupers. In 2019, Social Services handled approximately 70 indigent and pauper cremations.

Medical Assistance: Medical or Dental financial help in emergency situations.

Monroe County Transit (MCT): Door-to-door transportation for the elderly, disabled, and transportation disadvantaged. This allows transportation disadvantaged



citizens to remain independent by assisting them. Citizens who are 60 years and older ride free. In 2019, more than 24,000 one-way trips were provided.

Nutrition Services: Hot, fresh, congregate meals provided Monday through Friday in:

- Key West
- Big Pine Key
- Marathon
- Key Largo
- Home-Delivered meals provided on a weekly basis to home-bound clients

In 2019, more than 2,300 hot meals and more than 22,000 frozen meals were delivered.

Prescription Medication Assistance: Covers the cost of prescription medications and/or over-the-counter medications as prescribed by a physician for eligible individuals who either have no insurance, inadequate insurance, or cannot afford the co-payment.

Weatherization Assistance Program: This federal program assists Monroe County's income-eligible families improve the energy efficiency of their homes with critical repairs, renovations, and installation of cost-saving energy measures.



Senior Director:
Sheryl Graham

205.292.4510

Graham-Sheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 46
Budget: \$5.3 million
(includes \$1.4 million in grants)

Alzheimer's Disease Initiative, Community Care for Disabled Adults, and Older Americans Act: Provided nearly 29,000 hours of service to the elderly and disabled adult citizens of Monroe County during 2019 via these programs.

State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP): Administered \$335,000 in funding countywide to assist more than 20 homeowners with SHIP Disaster Mitigation, SHIP Sewer Lateral Connections, and SHIP Rehabilitation.



Bayshore Manor Assisted Living Facility

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/BayshoreManor

Bayshore Manor is Monroe County's 16-bed Assisted Living Facility that provides residents and adult day-care guests with loving, compassionate care while striving to enhance their quality of life, preserve their dignity, and meet their health, social and emotional needs.

Residents are provided home-cooked meals and can participate in weekly and often daily field trips, outings, and events throughout the community.

In 2019, adult daycare guests spent more than 1,800 hours at the facility, receiving care, meals, activities, field trips, and socialization from 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Bayshore Manor consistently remains at maximum capacity and maintains a constant waitlist; however, there is room for adult daycare guests. Bayshore Manor also provides short-term (up to 30 days) residential services for families requiring more prolonged relief from continuous caregiving.

Bayshore Manor is fully staffed 24-hours per day by medically trained professionals who are experts in the field of geriatric care and comfort.

Solid Waste & Recycling

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/solidwaste

Solid Waste Management provides Unincorporated Monroe County with a sustainable, environmentally-sound and cost-effective service for municipal solid waste. Through education, cost management, and customer service, the department supports the needs of the businesses and residents of Unincorporated Monroe County. Additionally, the department promotes "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" through community events and helps to assist in creating a viable and safe environment for future generations.

- Municipal Solid Waste
 - Vegetation/Yard Waste
 - Construction Debris
 - Pollution Control on County "Right-of-Ways"
 - County Owned Transfer Stations
- (Key Largo, Long Key, Cudjoe)

THREE COUNTY TRANSFER STATIONS & RECYCLING CENTERS

At the transfer stations, garbage, construction debris, and yard waste are collected and hauled off the islands for appropriate disposal. Residents can drop off items directly at the three County transfer stations. Hours: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Includes electronic waste.



Solid Waste continues to assist private citizen groups, like the Conch Republic Marine Army, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and many others in removing Hurricane Irma debris with highway cleanups.

COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Household hazardous waste is collected at each transfer station as follows:

- **Cudjoe Key:** First and third Wednesdays of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Long Key:** First and third Fridays of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Key Largo:** Appointment only. Call 305-745-4307
- **Key Largo** (Corner of Atlantic and Homestead avenues behind Walgreens): Second and fourth Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Household Hazardous and E-Waste Collection Dates:

- April 18, 2020
 - July 11, 2020
 - Oct. 10, 2020
 - Jan. 9, 2021
- From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at
10600 Aviation Blvd.,
Marathon

For more information, call 305.745.4307. The recycling initiative of household hazardous waste and electronic waste continues to be a key focus. Monthly collection points throughout the county allow residents to dispose of chemicals and electronic waste in an environmentally safe manner.



Director: Cheryl Sullivan
305.292.4536
Sullivan-Cheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 17
Budget: \$22.3 million

Report Illegal
Dumping!
Call 9-1-1 if
you see Illegal
Dumping in
action

STOCK ISLAND TO 7 MILE BRIDGE
Waste Management
Contact: 305.296.8297

Cudjoe Key Transfer Station:
MM 21.5, Blimp Rd.
305.745.2513



Key West | Stock Island | Cudjoe Key | Big Pine Key

Solid Waste & Recycling

RECYCLING REMINDERS

In Fiscal Year 2019, unincorporated Monroe County spent \$554,300 on recycling haul out for 7,090 tons. Residentially, homeowners in unincorporated Monroe County pay \$402 a year for garbage and recycling collection.

The recycling center accepts 1-5 plastics but offered an easy way to remember what plastic can be recycled. Milk jugs, water bottles, and bath products all fall within the "if the neck is smaller than the body, it can be recycled" rule. Red Solo cups do not. And, always remember to remove the lid, which can also be recycled.

According to a municipal solid waste report, only 1 out of 3 plastic water bottles make it to a recycling center. Tin, aluminum, cartons, cardboard, and newspaper are always accepted.

Reminders of things that CANNOT be recycled include plastic grocery bags (can be brought back to the grocery store), food waste, Styrofoam, furniture (even plastic outdoor furniture), toys, plastic planter containers (can be returned to garden store), garden hoses, hangers, electric wires, sporting goods, clothing, pots and pans, yard waste, hazardous materials and chemicals, and propane tanks, especially the small Coleman camping tanks. Remembering the things that cannot be recycled is extremely important because if more than 10 percent of the recycling is contaminated, it goes to the landfill instead!

WHO PICKS UP MY TRASH, YARD WASTE, AND RECYCLING?

7 MILE BRIDGE TO MM 72.5

Marathon Garbage Service
305.743.5165
Marthongarbage@bellsouth.net

Long Key Transfer Station:

MM 68 Overseas Hwy.
305.664.2263

ISLAMORADA (MM 72.5 – 91)

Advanced Disposal
305.853.3343

MM 91 TO COUNTY LINE

Keys Sanitary Services
305.451.2025

Key Largo Transfer Station:

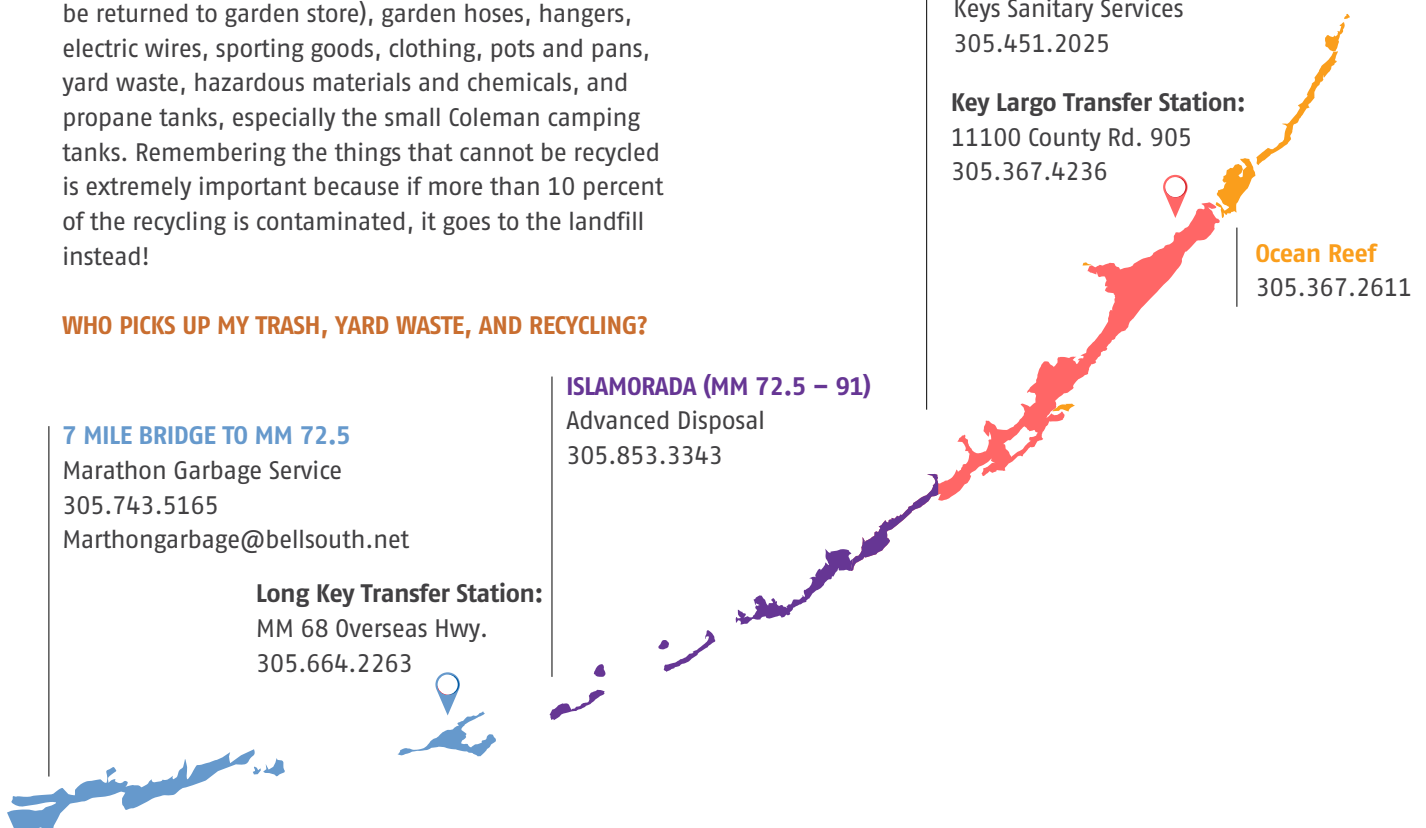
11100 County Rd. 905
305.367.4236

Ocean Reef

305.367.2611



During the 2019 "I love Stock Island" clean up, Jimmy Hoy of Solid Waste helps collect and dispose of 11,380 pounds of trash.





Strategic Planning

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/strategicplanning

The Office of Strategic Planning develops plans and initiatives for greater government accountability, organizational efficiency, and continuous improvement.

The Office of Strategic Planning manages the County's strategic and tactical planning processes along with a performance-based measurement system. The long-range Strategic Plan details the BOCC's priorities for the challenges facing our community with the purpose of deliberately shaping our community's future. While the annual Tactical Plan aligns individual Departments' efforts with the County's strategic priorities and objectives. Our performance measurement reporting creates a transparent, accountable, and meaningful process that will result in positive Community and organizational improvement.

In March 2019, the Commission adopted the five-year 2020 Monroe County Strategic Plan, which was created using 18 months of intensive research and feedback from the community collected before and after Hurricane Irma in 2017. The Plan's priorities and direction for County services are turned into action in the FY2020 Tactical Plan and supported through the FY20 budget process. The Plan outlines specific areas of concern and priority in the three areas of Quality of Life, Economy, and Environment.



Senior Director:
Kimberly Matthews
 305.292.4540
Matthews-Kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 1

The 2020 Strategic Plan articulates the County Commission's vision of "creating a better life every day for everyone in the Florida Keys by working to create balance in our quality of life, a strong economy, and natural environment." The Plan includes a mission to enhance the quality of life by providing outstanding public service that is responsive to the needs of the County's citizens, the unique community, and the environment.

"The 2020 Strategic Plan is a 30,000-foot view of the largest issues, biggest concerns, and most daunting challenges facing our Key's Community."

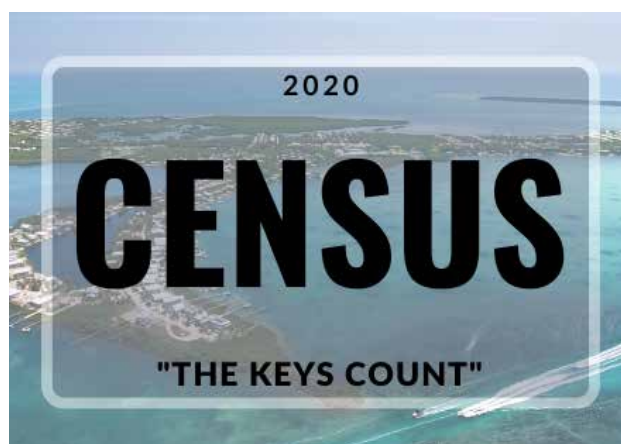
– Kimberly Matthews, Monroe County's Senior Director of Strategic Planning.



The complete 2020 Monroe County Strategic Plan and FY2020 Tactical Plan and more can be found at www.monroe-county-fl.gov/strategicplanning.

TOP 5 PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN COMMUNITY FEEDBACK:

1. Affordable/Workforce Housing
2. Growth Control and Overdevelopment
3. Traffic and Safety of U.S. 1
4. Water Quality
5. Wind Insurance Rates



Census 2020 "The Keys Count"

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/2020census

The 2020 Census will count every person living in Monroe County, the United States, and U.S. territories. The census is conducted every 10 years by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. "The Keys Count" campaign is intended to ensure a complete count of all residents of Monroe County in the 2020 Census.

Census results determine congressional representation and federal funding for states and communities, including Monroe County. Every year, more than \$675 billion is allocated throughout the nation to community services such as hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, housing programs, emergencies, and natural disasters. The resources our community will receive is greatly dependent upon information collected by the Census. That is why it is vital we have a complete count.

Between mid-March & April 2020, Monroe County each household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Residents have three options to respond – online, phone or by mail. Residents are required by law to participate in the 2020 count. Individually identifying information is safeguarded by law and remains confidential for 72 years.

For more information on the 2020 Census, email Matthews-Kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov, or visit www.monroecounty-fl.gov/2020census or www.2020census.gov.

Sustainability

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/sustainability

RESILIENCE

www.keysroadsplan.com

Monroe County is ground zero for experiencing the impacts of global climate change and sea level rise. Along the chain of islands that barely juts above the sea, many streets already are flooding numerous times throughout the year from extreme fall "king" tides.

Habitat for wildlife that once was high and dry continues to be encroached with seawater. Rising seas have begun to affect roads and

other County infrastructure, as well as some homes and businesses – and will continue to do so into the future.

The mission of the Office of Sustainability is to develop mitigation and resilience adaptation projects and environmental improvements that foster a resilient and livable community and a sustainable future.

The Office of Sustainability prepares the County to be more resilient to the effects of climate change and the resulting sea level rise. These climate adaptation preparations include:

- Gathering research and modeling the effects of sea level rise on County roads and facilities
- Collaboration with the Southeast Florida Climate Change Compact to keep abreast of updates on the projections of sea level rise and to help communities implement mitigation and adaptation measures
- Collecting elevation and other types of data to more accurately measure the potential inundation to County roads and infrastructure
- Developing new or revised policies to set standards for implementation of adaptation measures to prepare for sea level rise
- Implementing projects to mitigate against the effects of climate change. These projects include:
 - A County-wide roads analysis to evaluate the impacts of sea level rise on more than 300 miles of County-maintained roads and development of conceptual designs for elevation is underway and will be complete by September 2021. The end-product will be a roads adaptation plan for the next 25 years.

- A 3-year and \$3 million study agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to investigate storm and sea level rise vulnerability in Monroe County, funded 100 percent by the USACE. The study will address how present and future risk to coastal storm hazard and changes to mean sea level will affect coastal areas supporting the integrity of U.S. 1 and other critical facilities. The overall goal is to analyze all information to estimate future coastal vulnerability and develop a series of projects to help the County become more resilient, partially funded by the USACE.

The GreenKeys Plan contains specific projects for resilience preparation. www.GreenKeys.info



The Office of Sustainability also guides the County in becoming more environmentally-sustainable through Climate mitigation measures. These mitigation measures include:

- Development of sustainability policy formulation and plan development
 - Energy management and reduction initiatives listed in the GreenKeys Plan
 - Alternative energy and fuel source options
- Green purchasing policy development and guidance
Sustainable capital development processes

In addition, the University of Stetson completed a 3-year effort on HAZUS modeling in the Keys to help the County better prepare for future flooding conditions. (HAZUS is a geographic information system-based natural hazard analysis tool developed by FEMA.)

Finally, projects are implemented in the environmental restoration area that supports the County's sustainability initiatives, such as the canal restoration projects and post hurricane marine debris removal from the hundreds of canals located in the Keys. Sustainability is the quality of not being harmful to the environment or depleting natural resources and thereby supporting long-term ecological balance. The County's goal is to continually employ new technologies to protect the environment and best serve the residents and visitors.





Canal Restoration

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/canals

Monroe County embarked on a canal restoration program in 2014 after a study showed that 311 of the 502 canals throughout the island chain did not meet the State's minimum water quality criteria and are a source of nutrients and other contaminants to nearshore waters. A canal restoration program is underway, restoring the water of the canals throughout the Keys. Initiatives include:

- A 2-year partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection on water quality monitoring underway to help determine which areas in the County meet and do not meet State water quality standards.
- A 2-year water quality monitoring effort being conducted by the University of Miami to measure the effects that water quality in canals may have on nearshore waters.
- Canal restoration projects to improve the water quality in the canals.
- Cleanup of marine debris and sediment in 257 canals caused by the impacts of Hurricane Irma, to be completed by March 2020.
- A 2019 grant funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to improve the overall water quality of the canals, near shore and coastal waters of the FKNMS. The grant work includes the following three Tasks:

1. **Seaweed Barrier Technology Evaluation:** the County will review the available technologies such as air curtains or weed control structures and select the most appropriate technologies to augment or supplant the current standard design that will improve energy efficiency and system reliability and/or offer similar protection against surface weed invasion but at a lower cost, particularly for the operations and maintenance.

2. **Canal Workplan Bridging Documents:** Document development that connects the goals and objectives of the State's Department of Economic Opportunity Canal Work Plan with the technical directives presented in the Monroe County Canal Restoration Guidance Document; and
3. **Sargassum Control Master Plan, Phase 1:** Develop a framework for managing, removing, and disposing of the sargassum loading occurring throughout the Florida Keys.



Chief Resilience Officer:

Rhonda Haag

305.453.8774;

Haag-Rhonda@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employee: 2

Budget: \$1.75 Million

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM (PACE)

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/pace.

The County adopted a PACE Program in 2018 that provides alternative options for funding of projects that increase energy effectiveness. Homeowners can receive funds for energy saving projects, based on specific parameters, and pay back the funds through their property taxes.

Currently, residents have a choice of four PACE vendors to choose from in the County.



Monroe County Veterans Affairs wear red on Fridays to honor and Remember Everyone Deployed (R.E.D.) in service to our county.

Veterans Affairs

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/va

Monroe County Department of Veterans Affairs provides entitlement assistance for approximately 8,000 full-time veterans, 2,500 seasonal veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families in the Florida Keys. Each year the Veterans Affairs Department has more than 18,000 client interactions while providing a wide variety of services including:

Monetary Compensation:

- Service-related disabilities
- Non-service-connected pensions
- Burial benefits
- Survivor's benefits
- Educational and vocational rehabilitation benefits
- VA home loan eligibility assistance
- Appeals of any denied benefit

Nonmonetary Benefits:

- Military service medal, decoration, and award issuance or replacement
- Military service records or document requisitions
- VA Healthcare application assistance
- Operate the courtesy Veterans Transportation Program
- Documentation assistance in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs for:
 - Disabled veterans license tags
 - Property tax exemptions
 - Educational benefits
 - Commissary Privileges



Veterans Affairs

Director: Cathy Crane

305.295.5150

Crane-Cathy@

monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 8

Budget: \$728,743

MONROE COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICES

Murray Nelson

Government Center

102050 Overseas Hwy, Suite

208, Key Largo

305.453.8777

Harvey Government Center

1200 Truman Avenue, Suite

204, Key West

305.295.5150

Veterans Transportation
Program

305.295.5159

Eligible resident veterans with a VA certified service-connected disability of 10 percent or greater are entitled to a deduction or exemption on the assessment of their home for tax exemption purposes. For Tax Year 2019, 863 Monroe County veteran-owned parcels were awarded a deduction or exemption due to having a service-connected disability.



In June, Cathy Crane met with Florida Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nunez at a statewide Veterans conference and discussed Monroe County issues.

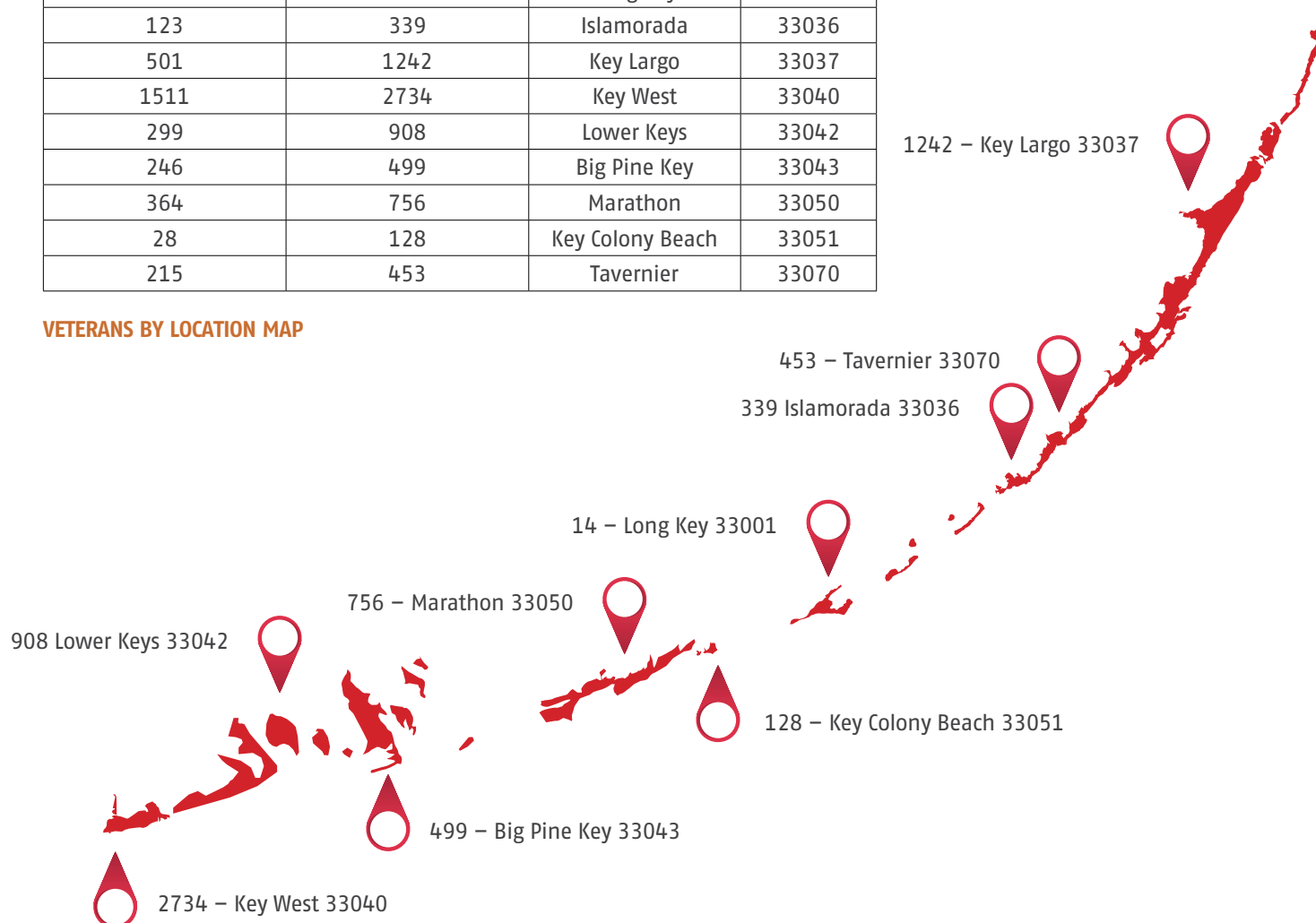




Monroe County Veterans Affairs and Monroe County employees walked in the 2019 Veterans Day Parade in Key West.

Department Internal Database	United States Census	Area	Zip Code
17	14	Long Key	33001
123	339	Islamorada	33036
501	1242	Key Largo	33037
1511	2734	Key West	33040
299	908	Lower Keys	33042
246	499	Big Pine Key	33043
364	756	Marathon	33050
28	128	Key Colony Beach	33051
215	453	Tavernier	33070

VETERANS BY LOCATION MAP





County Attorney

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/countyattorney

The County Attorney's Office provides high quality, cost-effective legal services to the Board of County Commissioners, the County Administrator, the Senior Management Team, County departments, and County advisory boards. The legal staff provides counsel on virtually every major decision made by the BOCC and County staff. Staff lawyers handle topics ranging literally from A (airport law) to Z (zoning).

BOCC AGENDAS

- Staff attorneys review every contract, bid solicitation, resolution, and ordinance considered by the commission.
- Staff prepares the BOCC meeting agendas and processes every item approved by the Board.
- During 2019, the County Attorney's Office processed and reviewed a total of 1,311 items, including 442 Resolutions and 44 Ordinances.

ELECTIONS

The County Attorney's Office provides legal counsel to the Supervisor of Elections and the County Canvassing Board. The County Attorney's Office will guide the Canvassing Board through three elections in 2020: the Presidential Preference Primary on March 17; the Primary Election on Aug. 18; and the General Election on Nov. 3.

LITIGATION

- Staff lawyers represented the County in more than a thousand cases in state and federal court as well as local administrative hearings.
- These efforts fulfill the Board's directive to emphasize prosecuting Vacation Rental Ordinance violations and collecting outstanding code enforcement fines and costs in the amount of \$1.855 million in FY19. Collected fines and costs are deposited in the County's general fund, lessening property taxes.
- Resolved a takings case that was initially filed in 2004 on behalf of 11 property owners whose trial lawyer sought more than \$24 million in damages. After 15 years of litigation, the County prevailed on 10 of the 11 claims and paid the one successful plaintiff \$375,714.06 in damages and interest. The State imposed growth limits resulting in the County's Rate of Growth Ordinance (ROGO) in both cases. The State of Florida has committed to reimbursing the County for half of that amount.



REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

- The County Attorney's Office assisted with the purchase of two storm damaged trailer parks and a number of scattered single family lots that will be rebuilt as modern, code compliant workforce housing.
- The County Attorney negotiated a land swap with the City of Key West that will result in a permanent home for the KOTS homeless facility and up to 40 apartment units for the Sheriff and other critical public safety employees.
- The County Attorney's Office assisted with the purchase of three buildings that will be used as office space in Marathon and Key West for constitutional officers.

RISK MANAGEMENT

- Ensures the County and its contractors are properly insured.
- Recovered \$8.6 million in insurance proceeds as a result of damages suffered to County properties during Hurricane Irma.
- Reviews all tort claims made against the County and determines the appropriate response.



County Attorney:
Bob Shillinger
 305.292.3470
Shillinger-Bob@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 17
 Budget: \$7.2 million
 (\$4.7 million Risk, \$2.5 million County Attorney)

LESS THAN FEE PROGRAM

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/lessthanfee

In anticipation of the County reaching build-out in the next decade, the Board directed the County Attorney's Office in 2018 to work with the Land Authority to launch a program to purchase development rights from property owners who wish to maintain ownership and maintenance responsibility for vacant lots that adjoin their homes. In 2019, the County purchased and retired the property rights for 47 properties as part of that program.

The County's team of ten lawyers has more than 228 years of experience practicing law and the expertise to handle most matters in-house. Seven of the County lawyers are board-certified by the Florida Bar as experts in City, County, and Local Government law – a distinction that only 292 of the almost 108,000 members of the Florida Bar have earned.



Assistant County Attorneys Patricia Eables and Joe DiNovo work on upcoming litigation at the Key West office.

Animal Control



The Key West Florida Keys SPCA has been operating since 1999 on Stock Island. A new \$8.4 million, 23,000 square-foot animal control facility opened in early 2019 to replace the crumbling and cramped existing facility and provides more kennels for animals, a veterinarian clinic, and more protection from the elements.

KEY WEST AND THE LOWER KEYS

MM 0 through MM 16.5

Florida Keys SPCA

5711 College Rd.

Key West, FL 33040

305.294.4857

After-Hours: 305.304.5964

www.fkspca.org

BIG PINE KEY AND THE MIDDLE KEYS

MM 16.5 through MM 70

Florida Keys SPCA

10550 Aviation Blvd.

Marathon, FL 33050

305.743.4800

After-Hours: 305.394.7806

www.fkspca.org

KEY LARGO AND THE UPPER KEYS

MM 70 through MM 112

Humane Animal Care Coalition

105951 Overseas Highway

MM 106 Oceanside, Key Largo,
FL 33037

305.451.0088

www.humaneanimalcoalition.com

The three animal shelters in Monroe County are much more than a place for stray and abandoned animals. The shelters have become community resources for pet owners and pet lovers. By Florida statute, each county is responsible for its own animal control.

Animal Control is responsible for enforcing State and County animal control regulations, protecting the public from the dangers and nuisances of uncontrolled, dangerous, or feral animals, and protecting animals from cruelty, abuse, and abandonment. They are also responsible for the spay and neutering and adoption of animals in their care.

Animal Control Officers conduct investigations, issue citations, and attend court proceedings related to alleged violations. The three County shelters provide all animals in their custody with proper care, nutrition, and shelter.

In 2019, the Key West shelter handled 1,452 animals, the Marathon shelter 481 animals through adoptions, clinic visits, lost and found, cruelty investigations, and animal control. They also completed 735 spay or neuter surgeries for the Lower and Middle Keys.

The Upper Keys shelter handled 1,531 cases broken down into 548 animal intakes, 455 spays and neuters, adoptions of 120 dogs and cats, 64 lost and found matches, and 464 road calls.

Each week, the Monroe County BOCC Facebook page features animals available for adoption at the three shelters.

By December 2019, the Upper Keys shelter completed 10,483 spays and neuters for Upper Keys animals since 2000 -- all free of charge to Upper Keys residents through donations from HACC and private citizens.



Guardian Ad Litem Circuit Director Alexsa Leto accepts a proclamation from the Board of County Commissioners on behalf of her staff and volunteers.

Guardian Ad Litem

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/gal

Guardian ad Litem, established into Florida law in 1980, mandates that every abused, neglected, or abandoned child who enters the dependency court system be provided with an advocate, known as a Guardian Ad Litem, to protect the best interest of the child.

The Guardian ad Litem program ensures that Monroe County can provide the highest quality of representation to children involved in dependency and criminal (witness or victim) court proceedings. The program identifies the necessary resources and constructs a comprehensive plan to achieve permanency for all children and their families.

The Guardian ad Litem Program advocates exclusively for the best interests of the children. Guardian Ad Litem's guiding mission is "I am for the Child."

In 2019, through volunteers, staff, attorneys, and Public-Private Community partners, permanent homes were found for 70 children through family reunifications, adoptions, permanent guardianships, and age-out transitions.

You can make a difference in the Florida Keys by becoming a Guardian ad Litem. Being a volunteer is a rewarding opportunity. If you are interested, call 305.292.3485.

In 2019, there were more than 233 children involved in the dependency system in Monroe County served by 100 volunteers, who selflessly gave their time. This volunteer work includes investigation, report writing, and testimony about a child's current situation.

The Guardian ad Litem takes a team approach that includes a volunteer, attorney, and a child advocate manager to work together to achieve the highest standard of advocacy. Research shows that children who are represented by a volunteer advocate are 50 percent less likely to return to foster care, or have fewer placement changes, and do better in school.



Circuit Director: Alexsa Leto
305.292.3485

Leto-Alexsa@monroecounty-fl.gov

Budget: \$210,000

Employees: 11
(2 County, 9 State)

CORE VALUES OF OUR PROGRAM

Commitment to Children: the children for whom we advocate are our most important priority.

Communication Built on Trust: we have a culture of open communication, active listening, teamwork, and regard for the views of others. This includes being honest and straightforward with the children we represent in keeping with their level of age and maturity.

Collective Empowerment: the program has the authority and responsibility to make and implement the best decisions to meet the children's needs. This empowerment must extend and passed on to volunteers, attorneys, and staff.

Collaboration: we proactively seek to develop relationships that promote the well-being of the whole child.

Courtesy: the program values all who engage in this challenging work and ensures they are treated with respect and dignity.

Land Authority

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/landauthority

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners created the Land Authority in 1986 to purchase property in the Florida Keys for conservation, recreation, the protection of property rights, and affordable housing. Many of the properties bought were conservation lands consisting of tropical hardwood hammock, pinelands, and wetlands that provide many environmental benefits, including habitat for endangered species and migrating birds, and lands that help protect water quality.

Due to the significant impacts of Hurricane Irma, the Land Authority is currently putting additional emphasis on identifying and purchasing workforce housing sites. Project coordination is underway with local, state, and federal agencies to maximize the use of taxpayer funds.

The Land Authority's funding for land acquisition comes from a half-cent of the tourist impact tax charged on lodging in the Keys and a surcharge on admissions and overnight camping at state parks in unincorporated Monroe County.

Fiscal and budgetary information regarding the Land Authority can be found at the website.

LAND STEWARDSHIP

The Land Authority oversees approximately 1,800 acres of conservation lands owned by the Land Authority, the County, or the State of Florida. The acres include some individual lots within or adjacent to neighborhoods. In most cases, newly purchased conservation land needs restoration to remove invasive exotic vegetation and, when necessary, to plant native vegetation. Conservation lands protect important wildlife areas, reduce housing density, and preserve the character of neighborhoods.

Funding for land stewardship comes from mitigation fees the County charges on land clearing activities and also from state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission funds.



A significant milestone was reached in FY19 when the Land Authority passed the \$100 million mark in advancing its mission.

PARTNERSHIP ACQUISITIONS

The County Commission entered into a partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to work jointly toward the purchase of Florida Forever conservation land in the Keys. The Land Authority serves as the County's agent for this program. The Land Authority also has an interlocal agreement with the County to act on its behalf regarding its Less Than Fee and Density Reduction programs.



Executive Director:
Charles Pattison, FAICP
 305.295.5180
Pattison-Charles@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 4
 Budget: \$19.7 million overall

Medical Examiner

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/medicalexaminer

Monroe County built a state-of-the-art Medical Examiners facility on Grassy Key in 2008 to store records and perform examinations and testing in the morgue.

The Medical Examiners Act was enacted in 1970 to establish minimum and uniform standards in death investigations. Florida's 67 counties are served by 25 Medical Examiner Districts appointed by the governor in 3-year terms.

By statute, the Medical Examiner determines cause and manner of death of a human being under the following circumstances: criminal violence, accidents, suicides, the sudden unexplained death of an otherwise healthy person, unattended by a practicing physician or other recognized practitioner, in a prison or penal institution, in police custody, suspicious or unusual circumstances, criminal abortion, poisoning, diseases that threaten public health, and employment-related diseases, injuries, or toxic agent.

The medical examiner also determines the cause and manner of death when a dead body is brought into the state without proper medical certification; when the body is to be cremated, dissected, or buried at sea; and when requested by the District Attorney.

The medical examiner's primary tool is an autopsy, which is a post-mortem examination. During an autopsy, everything is documented in a "case file," with photographs taken at all stages of the process. When an investigation is complete, a death certificate listing the cause and manner of death is filed with the Department of Vital Records for the State of Florida.

In 2019, the Medical Examiner's Office investigated 194 deaths. Through cooperation with multiple law enforcement agencies, the office identified all individuals in 2019.

To request a copy of an autopsy report, the request form is available at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/medicalexaminer. The form can be emailed to meo@monroecounty-fl.gov, or mailed to the Medical Examiner's Office, 56639 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL 33050.



Monroe County participates in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs). Monroe County has 45 unidentified cases. An unclaimed person has been identified, but the family has not been found to be notified by Local Law Enforcement.

Anyone can search the NamUs database at www.namus.gov or by calling 855.626.7600. They offer help to families in search of a missing family member.



Dist. 16 Monroe County Medical Examiner: Dr. Michael R. Steckbauer
305.743.9011,
ME0@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 2
Budget: \$704,435



Tourist Development Council

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/TDC

The mission of the Monroe County Tourist Development Council (TDC) is to set an overall direction for the Monroe County tourism marketing effort in a manner that will assure long-term sustained growth in tourism revenues while also guaranteeing the sustainability and improvement of our product, including both our man-made and natural resources, and improvements to the quality of life of our local residents.

The TDC is an organization with various advisory committees and board members that is comprised of 54 volunteers who represent all facets of the community. It is the legislative extension of the Board of County Commissioners, which appoints its nine TDC members as well as five At Large District Advisory Committee seats.

Revenues fund marketing efforts and infrastructure improvements such as beach maintenance and bricks-and-mortar projects. In fiscal year 2019, the TDC allocated \$7.3 million for capital-related projects that lessened tax burdens on residents and contributed to the resident's quality of life.

The TDC started the fiscal year 2019 educating the travel industry and consumers on the newly constructed and renovated product throughout the

destination. The TDC focused on sustainable tourism practices across all promotional disciplines throughout 2019. Mindful tourism was evidenced in the advertising campaign, media relations, sales efforts, research studies as well as an entire landing page on the visitor's website dedicated to protecting and connecting with our environment.

The TDC embraced the various municipalities and the County's push to avoid using single-use plastics by reminding our visitors to skip the straw, wear rash guards for sun protection versus using harmful chemical-based sunscreens and to reduce the use of plastic bags.



Director: Stacey Mitchell

305.296.1552

Stacey@fla-keys.com

Visitor's website:
www.fl-keys.com

The TDC also promoted the various alternative methods of transportation; bicycling whenever appropriate, using mass transit in the districts that offer such services and promoted airport shuttles to/from the major South Florida airports. For those who wanted to experience the iconic overseas highway, an app was developed in conjunction with the Sheriff's department focusing on safety while allowing visitors the full appreciation of experiencing one of America's scenic byways.

Florida Keys Council of the Arts

www.keysarts.com

The Florida Keys Council of the Arts is a nonprofit corporation in a public-private partnership with Monroe County government since 1997. As the designated local Arts Agency by Florida Statute 265.32, the Council is committed to its leadership role as the community's umbrella organization for arts and culture for the Keys. Following the economic and prosperity survey completed by Americans for the Arts in 2018 for Monroe County, the Council is proud of the economic impact of the nonprofit arts and cultural community estimated to be \$86 million dollars annually. The cultural arts play a fundamental role in the lives of the residents and visitors, and the Arts continue to be the signature of what makes the community unique and an international destination.

The focus is to maintain and expand our programming in a diverse, innovative and equitable manner. The Council strives for results that strengthen the economy, promote active community engagement, and provide support for arts education and advocacy.

In January 2019, the Arts Council launched a new grant opportunity, Art Builds Community, to encourage collaboration and audience building by emphasizing access to the Arts for all communities. This new initiative seeking collaborative projects to spark conversations, spur social change and make our community stronger is sponsored by the Helmerich Trust, Ocean Sotheby's International Realty, and other private donations.

The Council continues its work as both the County and City of Key West's Public Art Administrator for the prestigious "1% for Art" program. In Monroe County, the focus is on the new Cudjoe Key Fire Station and Marathon Library and Adult Education Center projects.

Upcoming projects in 2020 will include the City's transit building, new College Road Housing, the Key West Historic Seaport, and more. The County's largest project for the Art in Public Places Committee will be commissioning new artwork for the Plantation Key Court House.

Other activities include ongoing sponsorship of the Fantasy Fest poster contest, bringing elementary students to live orchestra performances by the South Florida Symphony,

and high school students to the Waterfront Playhouse. Other highlights include an artist site visit for public art at the brand new, under construction fire station in Cudjoe Key, artist application workshops for the South Florida Cultural Consortium \$15,000 Fellowship Grant, and TDC Cultural Umbrella Event funding application workshops in Islamorada and Key West.

The November 2019 member's exhibition was themed, Navigating New Waters. An appropriate opportunity for artists to explore new materials following Hurricane Irma. In February 2019, the Council hosted a guest curator and the work of more than 40 Cuban artists in Visions of Cuba at the Gato Building, a former Cuban cigar factory.



Executive Director:

Elizabeth Young

305.295.4369

Director@keysarts.com

Employees: 3 full-time and 1 part-time employee

Budget: \$385,000



For the seventh season, the Council coordinated "The Connections Project: A Mosaic of the Keys." This ambitious project connects local artists and the community and was on exhibit at seven sites throughout the Keys. The artwork reflected the message Connect and Protect our fragile environment. Thirty of the canvases were featured for a very successful social media campaign by the Tourist Development Council.



Library Services

www.keyslibraries.org

The first Monroe County public library opened in Key West in 1853. Today, it is the oldest library system in South Florida. In 2019, the libraries welcomed 369,622 visitors and logged more than 5 million e-visits to web resources.

The five branches also offered 1,700 programs for patrons of all ages, drawing 37,768 participants for both onsite and outreach presentations. This was in addition to the 868 programs presented on the premises by community groups -- with 10,832 in attendance.

The programs cover all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens, and meet a broad base of interests, including musical presentations, author talks, Lego clubs, art workshops and displays, Fantasy Theatre, computer classes, and programs featuring Florida Keys history, flora and fauna.

Monroe County libraries offer free access to the internet through library computers and through wireless access that enables patrons to use their own laptops and other mobile devices.

The only thing you need is a library card.

On the website, users can renew books, stream films, locate book clubs, and discover e-books. The library also uses an app, Libby by Overdrive, downloaded to phones and tablets via the Apple App Store, Google Play Store, and Microsoft Store. Readers borrow free e-books and audiobooks instantly to take them anywhere on their devices.



Director: Norma Kula
305.853.7349
Kula-Norma@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 43
Budget: \$3.9 million

COUNTY LIBRARY BRANCHES

KEY WEST

Branch Manager:
Michael Nelson
700 Fleming Street,
Key West
305.292.3595
www.keyslibraries.org/locations

ISLAMORADA

Branch Manager:
Walt Johnson
81830 Overseas Highway,
Islamorada
305.664.4645
www.keyslibraries.org/islamorada

BIG PINE KEY

Branch Manager:
Vacant
213 Key Deer Blvd.,
Big Pine Key
305.872.0992
www.keyslibraries.org/big-pine

KEY LARGO

Branch Manager:
Paulette Sullivan
101485 Overseas
Highway, Tradewinds
Shopping Center, Key
Largo
305.451.2396
www.keyslibraries.org/key-largo

MARATHON

Branch Manager:
Lorenia Diaz
3251 Overseas Highway,
Marathon
305.743.5156
www.keyslibraries.org/marathon





Each library location offers exciting weekly, monthly, and annual events for residents.



The Monroe County Library Key West branch celebrated its 60th anniversary at its Fleming Street location in November 2019 with a live jazz concert in the Palm Garden under the stars.

2019 Library staff at their annual meeting



Public Information Office

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/publicinformation

The Public Information Officer's primary responsibility is to provide accurate and timely information to the public and media about the actions, policies and public meetings of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners and the County's 24 departments. The Public Information Office is also the primary information source for Monroe County Emergency Management and Monroe County Fire Rescue.

Responsibilities include:

- Writing and distributing news releases, up-to-date releases can be found at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/pressreleases. More than 200 releases were sent out in 2019
- Maintaining the County's official social media communications
- Creating content and maintaining the official websites of Monroe County, Monroe County Fire Rescue, and Monroe County Emergency Management
- Responding to questions from residents and the media
- Arranging press conferences, ceremonies, and public meetings
- Working with state and federal government entities to ensure County residents receive information about state and federal programs and opportunities.
- Creating the State of the County annual report and information guide



For information about how to make public records request or where to find official Monroe County information and for the County's official media communication channels, see page 5.

**Public Information
Officer: Kristen**

Livengood

305.680.8226

Livengood-Kristen@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 1

In 2019, Monroe County's Public Information Officer Kristen Livengood participated in numerous emergency drills and tabletop exercises, including simulated plane emergencies at County airports, a mass-shooting drill at the port of Key West, and an emergency at Turkey Point. She also deployed to the Brevard County Emergency Operations Center during the threat of Hurricane Dorian.

Citizen Boards & Committees

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/boardsandcommittees

Monroe County has citizen boards and committees that contribute to the government in a variety of ways; some serve as advisory groups to the Board of County Commissioners, while others work on issues and projects in the community.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Works on affordable housing opportunities for residents and workforce and fulfills Florida Statute requirements regarding the Local Housing Assistance Plan.

Contact: Juanita Jones
305.289.2562

Jones-Juanita@monroecounty-fl.gov

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

The five-person BOCC-appointed committee reviews and recommends proposals for commissioned permanent public art. Projects are funded by the "1% for Art" ordinance created in 2001. It strives to promote and support the vibrant arts community by enhancing public buildings throughout Monroe County.

Contact: Elizabeth Young
305.295.4369

Director@keysart.com

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Makes recommendations to the BOCC regarding appropriate mitigation and adaptation policies needed to address climate change issues.

Contact: Alicia Betancourt
305.453.8774

Betancourt-Alicia@monroecounty-fl.gov

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CITIZENS ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Assists Monroe County by conducting neighborhood revitalization and housing rehabilitation programs using Community Development Block Grant funds.

Contact: Tina LoSacco
305.292.4426
Losacco-Tina@monroecounty-fl.gov

CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS

Hears discrepancies in interpretations of the current County building codes.

Contact: Maria Partington
305.289.2583
Partington-Maria@monroecounty-fl.gov

CONTRACTORS EXAMINING BOARD

Interprets and makes rules and regulations, and hears public complaints and code compliance violations.

Contact: Maria Partington
305.289.2583
Partington-Maria@monroecounty-fl.gov

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

A committee that reviews applications for development approval and reviews applications for amendments to the text of the Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Code, and map amendments.

Contact: Debra Roberts
305.289.2522
Roberts-Debra@monroecounty-fl.gov
Or, Ilze Aquila 305.289.2529
Aquila-Ilze@monroecounty-fl.gov



FLORIDA KEYS TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution in July 2019 to create the committee to study and research traffic issues and create formal recommendations for the governing bodies of the five municipalities and the BOCC.

DUCK KEY SECURITY DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD

Provides security services for the residential areas of Duck Key.

Contact: Sylvia Hernandez
sylviahdz@gmail.com

FLORIDA KEYS COUNCIL FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Implements special projects that advocate for residents and visitors with disabilities and their families.

Contact: Anna Haskins
305.292.4591
Haskins-Anna@monroecounty-fl.gov



Contact: Janene Sclafani,
Transportation Planner
305.289.2545
Sclafani-Janene@monroecounty-fl.gov

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Designates and regulates historical properties within the unincorporated area of the County.

Contact: Diane E. Silvia
305.292.6718
hfkf@bellsouth.net

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Reviews funding requests from non-profit human services agencies and makes recommendations to the BOCC.

Contact: Janet Gunderson
305.292.4470
Gunderson-Janet@monroecounty-fl.gov

KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AD HOC COMMITTEE ON NOISE

Acts as a conduit for information to and from their constituents on issues related to airport and aircraft noise.

Contact: Richard Strickland
305.809.5200
Strickland-Richard@monroecounty-fl.gov

LAND AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Makes recommendations to BOCC on matters related to Land Authority property acquisitions.

Contact: Dina Gambuzza,
305.295.5180
Gambuzza-Dina@monroecounty-fl.gov

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Provides the Board of County Commissioners with information and counsel concerning all matters relating to the libraries.

Contact: Valerie Moore,
305.809.5266
Moore-Valerie@monroecounty-fl.gov

OLDER AMERICANS ADVISORY BOARD

Makes recommendations to BOCC regarding services or programs that would benefit older American citizens of the County.

Contact: Pam Martin,
305.853.0907
pmflkeys@aol.com

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

The 5-person BOCC-appointed board reviews existing facilities, programs, expenditures, and revenues and makes recommendations for improvements, additional facilities, and programs.

Contact: Debra Martinez
305.295.4385
Martinez-Debra@monroecounty-fl.gov

PLANNING COMMISSION

The 5-person BOCC-appointed board serves as the local planning agency. Reviews proposed amendments to the text of the Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Code, and map amendments, and provides recommendations to the BOCC.

Contact: Debra Roberts 305.289.2522
Roberts-Debra@monroecounty-fl.gov

Or, **Ilze Aquila**
305.289.2529

Aguila-Ilze@monroecounty-fl.gov

SHARED ASSET FORFEITURE FUND ADVISORY BOARD

Recommends grant funding to private, non-profit organizations using money from the Sheriff's Office's forfeitures and seized assets.

Contact: Michelle Quad
305.292.7090
mquad@keysso.net

SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY BOARD

Reviews and recommends applications for funding under the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program and the Clerk's Drug Abuse Trust Fund. This board also serves as the County's Planning Council for the Florida Department of Children and Families Office of Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse.

Contact: Janet Gunderson
305.292.4470
Gunderson-Janet@monroecounty-fl.gov

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Sets an overall direction for the Monroe County tourism marketing effort to assure long-term sustained growth in tourism revenues and sustainability of resources.

Contact: Katrina Cool
305.296.1552
officeasst@fla-keys.com

Constitutional Officers

There are five Constitutional Officers in the Florida Keys. They are elected by voters in the entire county. They are Sheriff, Clerk of the Court, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector, and Property Appraiser. The Constitutional Officers report to the people. Each has different responsibilities mandated by state law.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

www.keys-elections.org

R. Joyce Griffin

305.292.3416

Employees: 9



The Supervisor of Elections oversees all elections in Monroe County. On the website, residents can register to vote, request Vote-By-Mail ballots, check voting status, check where to vote, request signature and address, and change party affiliation. Residents also can find out information on candidates running for office, or learn how to become a candidate for Monroe County elections.

Supervisor of Elections offices:

530 Whitehead Street #101,

Key West

10015 Overseas Hwy,

Marathon

102050 Overseas Hwy #137,

Key Largo

As of January 2020, there were 53,704 active registered voters in Monroe County.

On the website, election results are available starting in 1932, sample ballots can be viewed starting from 1987 and total voters who came out to vote in any of the elections starting in 1958, when Monroe County only had 11,544 registered voters.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

& COMPTROLLER

www.clerk-of-the-court.com

Kevin Madok

305.292.3550

Employees: 88



The Clerk of Court is responsible for the issuances of Monroe County's marriage licenses and is responsible for keeping the official public records of past and current BOCC meetings, County payroll accounts, and payables and receivables. The Clerk is in charge of circuit and County criminal, civil, juvenile, probate, and traffic departments, including traffic citation payments.

Key West Traffic/Criminal

500 Whitehead Street, Key West, FL

33040 | 305.295.3963

Key West Civil/Recording/Records

530 Whitehead Street,

Key West, FL 33040

305.292.3440

Marathon Office

3117 Overseas Highway, Marathon,

FL 33050 | 305.289.6027

Plantation Key Office

88820 Overseas Highway,

Islamorada, FL 33070

305.852.7145

Plantation Key Roth Office

50 High Point Road, Islamorada, FL

33070 | 305.852.7145

PROPERTY APPRAISER

www.mcpafl.org

Scott P. Russell

305.292.3420

Employees: 37



The Monroe County Property Appraiser is responsible for identifying, locating, and fairly valuing all property within the county for tax purposes. Determining fair and equitable value for your property is the only role of this office. The property appraiser does not create value; the value is made by buying and selling real estate in the marketplace. The property appraiser has the legal responsibility to study those transactions and appraise your property accordingly.

Main Office

305.292.3420

500 Whitehead Street (rear of building)

Key West, FL 33040

Middle Keys Satellite Office

305.289.2550

MM 48, 2798 Overseas Hwy, Suite 310

Marathon, FL 33050

Upper Keys Satellite Office

305.852.7130

MM 88.7, 88700 Overseas Hwy Islamorada, FL 33070

TAX COLLECTOR

www.monroetaxcollector.com

Danise D. Henriquez

305.295.5010

Employees: 57



The tax collector is an agent for state and local government agencies for the collection of revenue and public funding. The tax collector is responsible for the collection of ad valorem taxes, non-ad valorem taxes, motor vehicle and vessel registration, title applications, collection of sales tax, issuance of hunting and fishing licenses, driver's license services, concealed weapons, local business tax, issuance of City of Key West parking permits, and collection of tourist development taxes.

The tax collector works with information provided by the Property Appraiser's Office for the tax roll, which consists of real estate taxes, tangible taxes, and assessments, like fire, solid waste, and sewer.

Monroe County Tax Collectors Main Office

1200 Truman Ave., Suite 101, Key West, FL

33040

305.295.5000

Marathon Branch Office

3101 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL 33050

305.289.6034

Plantation Key Branch Office

Governmental Center Annex Building

88800 Overseas Highway, Islamorada, FL 33070

305.852.7150

Key Largo Branch Office**Tradewinds Shopping Center**

101487 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037

305.853.3562

Key West Driver License Office

Searstown Shopping Center, Key West, FL 33040

305.293.6338

Marathon Driver License Office

3384 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL 33050

305-289-2306

SHERIFF

www.keyssso.net

Rick Ramsay

Dial 911 for emergencies

305.292.7000 for the non-emergency switchboard

r Ramsay@keyssso.net

Employees: 600



The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is the primary law enforcement agency serving the residents and visitors of the Florida Keys from Key Largo to Key West. Law enforcement duties include traditional road patrol, the operation of county detention facilities, and the service of civil papers.

On the Sheriff's website, users can find information about arrest data, active warrant information, victim resources and more.

Administrative Headquarters

305-292-7000

5525 College Road, Key West, FL

33040

Freeman Substation

20950 Overseas Highway, Cudjoe

Key, FL 33042

Marathon Substation

3103 Overseas Highway, Marathon,

FL 33050

Islamorada Substation

86800 Overseas Highway,

Islamorada, FL 33036

Roth Building

50 High Point Road, Islamorada, FL

33070

Key Largo Substation

102050 Overseas Highway, Key

Largo, FL 33037

JUSTICE SYSTEM: 16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

www.keyscourts.net

Chief Judge: Mark Jones

Trial Court Administrator:

Holly Elomina

305.292.3423

Freeman Justice Center

302 Fleming Street

Key West, FL 33040

Marathon Courthouse

3117 Overseas Highway

Marathon, FL 33050

Plantation Key**Government Center**

88820 Overseas Highway

Tavernier, FL 33070

STATE ATTORNEY

www.keyssao.org



Dennis Ward

305.292.3400;

Public Information Office:

Larry Kahn

305.289.2899

lkahn@keyssao.org

PUBLIC DEFENDER

www.pd16.org



Robert Lockwood

305.294.2501

Municipalities

There are five municipalities in the Keys. Each has its own elected mayor, council and government for the operations of their city. The rest of Monroe County is known as "unincorporated Monroe County," and it is governed by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners.

ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS

Mayor: Mike Forster

86800 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, FL 33036
305.664.6400

www.islamorada.fl.us

City Manager: Seth Lawless

Public Information Officer: Mary Swaney
mary.swaney@islamorada.fl.us

CITY OF KEY COLONY BEACH

Mayor: John DeNeale

P.O. Box 510141
Key Colony Beach, FL 33051
www.keycolonybeach.net
305.289.1212

City Manager: Chris Moonis
cmoonis@keycolonybeach.net

CITY OF KEY WEST

Mayor: Teri Johnston

1300 White St., Key West FL
30040
305.809.3700

www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov

City Manager: Greg Veliz

Public Information Officer:
Alyson Crean
acrean@cityofkeywest-fl.gov

CITY OF LAYTON

Mayor: Bruce Halle

68260 Overseas Highway
P.O. Box 778, Long Key, FL 33001
www.cityoflayton.com
305.664.4667

City Administrator: Skip Haring
cityhall@cityoflayton.com

CITY OF MARATHON

Mayor: Steve Cook

9805 Overseas Highway
Marathon, FL 33050
www.ci.marathon.fl.us
305.743.0033

City Manager: Chuck Lindsey
lindseyc@ci.marathon.fl.us



Climate Summit

Monroe County-hosted the 11th Annual Regional Climate Leadership Summit. Co-hosts were Marathon, Islamorada, and Key West.

The 3-day event was held in December 2019 in Key West. The annual event focused on facilitating climate-related collaboration and sharing of ideas to prepare for sea level rise.

The event brought more than 500 leaders from business, government, higher education, and nonprofits at panel discussions and networking breaks.

The Sustainability office continues important coordination activities with the four-county Southeast Florida Climate Compact that includes Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties.

Quick References

FLORIDA KEYS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Key Largo Chamber of Commerce
www.KeylargoChamber.org
 106000 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo
info@keyslargochamber.org
 305.451.1414

Key West Business Guild
www.Gaykeywestfl.com
 808 Duval St, Key West
 305.294.4603

Key West Chamber of Commerce
www.Keywestchamber.org
 510 Greene St, Key West
info@keywestchamber.org
 305.294.2587

Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce
www.Floridakeysmarathon.com
 1222 Overseas Hwy, Marathon
info@floridakeysmarathon.com
 305.743.5417

Islamorada Chamber of Commerce
www.Islamoradachamber.com
 87100 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada
info@islamoradachamber.com
 305.664.4503

Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce
www.Lowerkeyschamber.com
 31020 Overseas Hwy, Big Pine Key
info@lowerkeyschamber.com
 305.872.0752

LOCAL GOVERNING BOARDS

Monroe County voters elect several governing boards in the Keys.

Florida Keys Mosquito Control District
www.keysmosquito.org

Five board members are elected countywide but represent their respective districts. The board's mission is to control mosquitoes efficiently in an environmentally sensitive manner while protecting the public from health threats and nuisance issues that could impact the local economy.

Director: Andrea Leal
 305.292.7190
Public Information Officer:
Chad Huff
 305.292.7190 x 131
chuff@keysmosquito.org

Monroe County School District
www.keysschools.com

Five board members are elected countywide but represent their respective districts. The board's mission is to provide Florida Keys students with the tools and education they need to become responsible, contributing adults.

Incoming Superintendent: Theresa Axford
 305.293.1400
Theresa.Axford@keysschools.com

Public Information Officer: Lynsey Saunders
 305.293.1400 ext. 53307
Lynsey.Saunders@keysschools.com

Total Enrollment: 8,951

School Board Members:
 District 1: Bobby Highsmith
 305.923.9331,
bobby.highsmith@keysschools.com

District 2: Andy Griffiths
 305.296.2639
andy.griffiths@keysschools.com

District 3: Mindy Conn, Chairwoman
 305.293.1400 x53323
mindy.conn@keysschools.com

District 4: John Dick
 305.395.0657
john.dick@keysschools.com

District 5: Sue Woltanski
 305.240.1565
sue.woltanski@keysschools.com

UTILITIES

Florida Keys Electric Cooperative
www.fkec.com
 The nine-person elected electric company board represents four districts in the Middle and Upper Keys that range from the 7 Mile Bridge to Ocean Reef, and to the County line on the 18-Mile Stretch.
 91630 Overseas Hwy., Tavernier
 305.852.2431

Keys Energy Services
www.keysenergy.com

The five-seat elected governing board for the Lower Keys electric company represents the 7 Mile Bridge to Key West. In 2020, the board will consist of two positions in the Lower Keys and three in Key West proper.
 1001 James St., Key West
 305.295.1000

Director of Communications:
Julio Torrado
 305.295.1023
Julio.Torrado@keysenergy.com

Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority
www.fkaa.com

The five board members each represent the entire County and are appointed by Florida's governor. The board's mission is to oversee the utility that provides the Keys' its water primarily from an aquifer on the mainland.
 305.296.2454
 1100 Kennedy Dr, Key West

Public Information Manager:
Julie Cheon
jcheon@fkaa.com
 305.295.2150

Comcast Service Center
 1010 Kennedy Dr, Suite 200, Key West
 300 Sombrero Rd, Marathon
 800.266.2278

AT&T and U-Verse
 1113 Key Plaza, Key West
 5109 Overseas Hwy, Marathon
 305.296.5007; 855.293.7676

State Agencies in Monroe County

In Monroe County, many branches of government at the federal, state, and local levels work in the Keys – some directly serve the local residents and some have bigger missions to serve Florida or the country. Monroe County B0CC works with other government entities at all levels for the good of the County and its citizens.

STATE

Florida Department of Health Monroe County

www.Monroe.floridahealth.gov

www.DOHMonroe@flhealth.gov

The department is responsible for helping to keep the residents in the Florida Keys healthy. From environmental health to preventative planning for those who are pregnant to those looking for elderly care, and everyone in between. The Florida Department of Health in Monroe County is also a partner for special needs care during evacuation events and has helped Monroe County in the past with issues like screw-worm and mosquito-related incidents.

Administrator: Bob Eadie

305.293.7500

1100 Simonton St, Gato Building
Key West, FL

Public Information Officer:

Alison Kerr

305.676.3820

Alison.Kerr@flhealth.gov

Environmental Health

553 College Rd, DJJ Building,
Stock Island; 305.676.3908

102050 Overseas Hwy, Murray Nelson
Government Center, Key Largo
305.676.3941

Public Health and Mental Preparedness

105 Olivia St, Key West
305.293.7500

Health Care Centers

1100 Simonton St, Gato Building, Key West
3333 Overseas Hwy, Marathon
50 High Point Rd, Tavernier

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

www.myfwc.com/

FWC has many entities in the Keys, including law enforcement, licenses and permitting, conservation and research. On the law enforcement side, the FWC officers overlap with Monroe County Sheriff's Office

on the water and near coastal communities to respond as backup or primary on water-related issues and public safety. The agency also brings in supplemental officers and equipment to support Emergency Management.

On the research side of FWC, the agency keeps track of economically stimulating fisheries like lobster and stone crab, which is important not only for the County but also for the State. It also helps create awareness about invasive species, like lionfish, and is the State agency tasked with testing antibiotics for the coral disease outbreak.

Department of Environmental Protection

www.FloridaDEP.gov

The DEP is the State's lead agency for environmental management and stewardship, divided into three areas: land and recreation, regulatory, and ecosystem restoration. In Monroe County, DEP has been an integral agency for the County's canal restoration, stormwater and sustainability projects.

Department of Motor Vehicles

www.floridastateparks.org

305.289.2600

Florida Highway Patrol

The state law enforcement agencies have officers who are stationed in the Keys to provide a variety of functions, often working collaboratively with local law enforcement.

www.850.617.2000

www.flhsmv.gov

STATE PARKS IN THE KEYS

Bahia Honda State Park

36850 Overseas Hwy, Bahia Honda
305.872.2353

Curry Hammock State Park

56200 Overseas Hwy, Marathon
305.289.2690

Dagny Johnson Hammock

Botanical State Park

County Road 905, MM 106, Key Largo
305.676.3777

Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail

90 linear miles of trail: Key Largo to Key West; 305.853.3571

Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park

601 Howard England Way, Key West
305.292.6713

Indian Key Historic State Park

Offshore Islamorada
305.664.2540

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

MM 102.5, Key Largo
www.Pennekamppark.com
305.664.3777

Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Park

77200 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada
305.664.2540

Long Key State Park

Camping closed through Dec. 2019
67400 Overseas Hwy, Long Key
305.664.4815

San Pedro Underwater Archaeological

Preserve State Park
Remains of a Dutch-built ship off Indian Key
305.664.2540

Windley Key Fossil Reef

Geological State Park

84900 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada
305-664-2540
FEDERAL PARKS IN THE KEYS
Dry Tortugas National Park
70 Miles West of Key West
www.Nps.gov; 305-242-7700

Great White Heron National Wildlife

Refuge, Key West National Wildlife Refuge and National Key Deer Refuge Visitor Center

179 Key Deer Blvd, Big Pine Key
www.Fws.gov; 305.872.0774



Federal Agencies in Monroe County

NAVAL AIR STATION KEY WEST

www.cnmc.navy.mil

Monroe County and Naval Air Station Key West have a long history of cooperation and mutual partnership. This collaboration has contributed economic, public safety and environmental benefits for the community at large, and has also enhanced operational and readiness requirements for the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, National Guard units, federal agencies and allied forces supported by Naval Air Station Key West.

Public information officer: Trice Denny

Andrea.Denny@navy.mil

United States Coast Guard

The Coast Guard has stations in Islamorada and Marathon. It also operates Sector Key West, which is responsible for 55,000 square miles, including Cuba and the Bahamas. The Coast Guard protects the maritime border, environment and marine commerce. They conduct search and rescue and law enforcement operations, and in the event of a disaster, Coast Guard works with Monroe County Emergency Management.

Station Islamorada: 305.664.8077

Station Marathon: 305.743.1991

Sector Key West: 305.292.8713

NOAA

www.floridakeys.noaa.gov

NOAA also is responsible for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, which protects 2,900 nautical miles of Florida Keys coastal and ocean waters.

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Communications: Gena Parsons 305-809-4694

gena@marinesanctuary.org

National Weather Service Key West

www.floridakeys.noaa.gov

For all things weather-related, the County entrusts the experts at NWS for updated forecasts and other expertise. Daily forecasts can be found on the NWS website and during a hurricane event, like Hurricane Irma in 2017.

www.weather.gov/key

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

www.cbp.gov

In the event of an emergency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents become a part of Monroe County's Emergency Management team. The agency is also responsible for border security and detaining illegal immigrants, preventing human trafficking, and checking people in and out at the Key West Port of Entry located at 301 Simonton St, Room 105, Key West; 877.227.5511.



Message from the Mayor

What an amazing place to live! I knew the Keys were special the first time I visited in the 1980s. Like so many vacationers, I kept returning. Then, on a visit 20 years ago, I learned that the inn where I was staying was for sale, and took that opportunity to buy the business and make Key West my home.

I have been blessed to live in this place, surrounded by stunning water, amid interesting architecture, engulfed in a rich culture, educated by a unique history, and circled by astoundingly talented and giving people. And I am honored and humbled to serve as a County Commissioner, and this year, as Mayor.

There is often talk of how the Keys have changed over the years, and in many ways, they have – sometimes in a contradictory manner. We have worked hard to make our waters cleaner by providing advanced wastewater treatment even to our remote locations. Yet our waters are also warmer, causing greater stress on our reef system. Our roads are better with new bike paths, landscaping, signals, and pavement, yet they also seem more dangerous due to ever-increasing traffic. Our houses are better built and more valuable, yet there are fewer homes that folks who live and work here can afford.

One thing has been constant throughout these changes and the history of the Keys: resiliency. We have recovered from the collapse of sponging, wrecking and cigar-making, the loss of Flagler's railroad, the withdrawal of the military in the 1970s, and just since I have lived here, 9/11, the BP oil spill, Hurricane Wilma and the recession in 2008. (We are still recovering from Hurricane Irma, and will be for a few more years.)

It is this resiliency that we must now draw upon as we find ourselves on the leading edge of a global crisis. The sea that surrounds us is rising. We see it in measurements, in our neighborhoods and shorelines, especially during king tides. We learned at our 2019 Climate Compact Summit that it is rising at a faster pace than was predicted just five years ago. Our challenge will be to mitigate negative impacts where we can and adapt to living a bit differently with water.

I believe we are up to this challenge. We are in the midst of an analysis of our 300 miles of County roadways and drainage systems to determine our greatest vulnerabilities and possible long-term solutions, such as:

- Policy development to encourage physical improvements or strategies to direct growth to the highest ground or strengthening building codes to assure stronger structures.

- Elevation of roadways or identifying alternative methods of access.
- Development of drainage systems to include retention and treatment of water, keeping in mind water quality.
- Improving critical infrastructure by relocating it from low-lying areas, hardening it against future storms, or elevating it.
- Restoring natural shorelines or mangroves to protect inland areas and/or hardening shorelines.
- Elevating or replacing homes to mitigate impacts of flooding and sea-level rise.
- Offering to buy-out repetitive flood loss properties or those low-lying areas that are not suitable for redevelopment.
- Working with the Army Corps of Engineers, we are analyzing shoreline resiliency. New infrastructure is being elevated and reinforced.

The private sector, too, is beginning to converge and seek projects to protect our community.

Of course, this is not our only challenge. We are still struggling to increase housing options for our workforce, to decrease traffic on our roads, and to support our natural environment and precious coral reef. Balancing all these needs while facing the threat of our rising seas will require us to make very difficult choices as we set priorities and seek funding.

All of this will come with a hefty price tag that may seem overwhelming. Yet we have done this before; we raised nearly a billion dollars – with only 77,000 residents – to sewer the Keys. We have an enormously talented, dedicated and professional staff at the County, determined to address these issues.

There are responses to our challenges that have not been invented yet; others may be right in front of us, waiting to be discovered. I think of the metal roofs that are emblematic of Keys living, installed after the Great Key West Fire of 1886 to prevent embers from lighting adjacent wood shingle roofs, now an acknowledged protective feature against hurricanes.

Living with the impacts of a changing climate may require reconfiguration of our communities, a new approach to living with water while maintaining our economy and quality of life, but we will not retreat from the Florida Keys. We will, once again, reinvent ourselves. Human beings will always want to live by the water. I am confident that together, we will work to assure this treasure that is enjoyed by millions every year is rebuilt for centuries to come. The Keys are my home, and yours. I am raising a family here, and my children will enjoy the rich bounty of a community, culture and environment that are like nowhere else on earth.




Sincerely,

Heather Carruthers
Monroe County Mayor





Monroe County
Board of County Commissioners
1100 Simonton Street
Key West, FL 33040
305-294-4641
www.monroecounty-fl.gov

 /monroecountybocc
 /monroecounty
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